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HOUSE RECORD

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Thursday, April 23, 2026

No. 11

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 10 (Cont'd)

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Rep. Osborne moved that the House adjourn.
Motion adopted.

HOUSE JOURNAL NO. 11

Thursday, April 23, 2026

The House assembled at 10:00 a.m., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer was offered by House Chaplain, Reverend Kevin Twombly, Pastor at Restoration Foursquare Church in Concord.

God of wisdom, justice and mercy, we come to this moment with a shared awareness that what happens here matters. Decisions made in this room will shape lives across our state, families, communities, businesses and futures yet unseen. Grant to each Representative a steady mind and discerning heart. In moments of complexity, bring clarity. In moments of tension, bring restraint. Where there is pressure to react quickly, give the wisdom to pause and consider what is right, not just easy. Guard this place from division that hardens hearts. Where differences exist, and they will, help them to be engaged with respect, humility and a genuine desire to understand. Remind each person here that regardless of party, platform or perspective, they have been entrusted to serve all the people of New Hampshire. Let integrity lead over ambition. Let truth rise above confusion. Let a sincere commitment to the common good shape every conversation and every vote. In all of it, may there be a quiet awareness that they do not carry this responsibility alone. You are present, even here, offering wisdom to those who seek it and guidance to those who will listen. We entrust this day to You. Amen.

Rep. Peter Petrigno, member from Milford, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Up-Gray'd Quartet from Keene.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Reps. Buco, DeVito, Kenny, Morency, Kate Murray and Sofikitis, the day, illness.

Reps. Gorski, Howland, Malloy, Tim Mannion, Miner, Minor, Mark Pearson, Stephen Pearson, Plante, Sellers, St. Clair, Stavis and Turcotte, the day, important business.

Rep. Nelson, the day, illness in the family.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Zachary Pickle and Ryan Santerre, students at Kingswood Regional High School in Wolfeboro, Pages for the day. Ryan Nugent and Geoff Wellington, guests of Representatives Rombeau and Foxx; Jaimeika Lewis, guest of Representative Darby; Kimberly Fisher and Arnetta Devlin, guests of Representative Petrigno; Chrissy Simonds, guest of Representative Chretien; Nancy and Guy Despres, guests of Representative Verville; Theresa Truman, guest of Representative David Paige, Arya Shams, guest of Representative Beauchemin, Alex Reno, guest of Representative Bridle; Representative Jim Thorne, member of the Maine House of Representatives, guest of Representative Osborne; and students from the 5 Rock Learning School and students from Mast Way Elementary School, guests of the House.

MEMORIAL REMARKS

Representative McGhee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. When I first ran for office, my husband said, "whatever happens, you'll learn a lot and you'll meet great people." And isn't that the truth. If we're honest with

ourselves, we know that we are following in the footsteps of those who have been called to public service before us. Those who lend their talents to this worthy endeavor of self-governance, for a brief period, until the torch is inevitably passed to the next person who steps up to meet the moment. The traditions we are all engaged in is what brings me here today; to memorialize the story of a fallen colleague, an honorable representative who served with quiet distinction, and deserves our praise. Susan Belle Durham was a woman who earned a great deal of respect and admiration in our town of Hollis. Both a state and community leader, Sue was the consummate volunteer, and as she might say, “an all-around good egg.” Susan was the best of her generation, born on November 15th, 1940, she was open, honest, kind, and curious in a way that lent itself to lifelong learning. She was retired 12 years from this body, when I first knocked on her door as a candidate for Hollis State Rep. Susan’s response was to warmly welcome me into her home, expressing her delight at meeting another public servant in the making. It didn’t matter that she had served as a Republican from 1990 to 2000 and I was running as a Democratic candidate. She encouraged me that day in 2012 and supported me in every encounter and election since. In fact, after her beloved husband Frank passed and she sold her home and moved off our street to another part of town, I just happened to canvass her door during the 2024 election cycle and she invited me into her home again, this time as a friend. Susan attended the University of Hawaii and married Frank Durham in 1958 at the ripe old age of 18. Together, they had 4 children, Elizabeth, George, Kimberly and Alison. Beth and George are here with us today in the gallery, and Kimberly, Alison and the rest of the family are watching the live link. When the Durham’s returned stateside, Susan studied at the University of Michigan, a top-10 public university. She must have been bitten by a bug for the value of education at some point in her academic career because Susan carried the importance of education with her throughout her life. She took on the fight to bring public kindergarten to New Hampshire, because NH was the only New England state without public kindergarten at that time. She worked just as strongly for New Hampshire to embrace (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering and Math as a way of creating the workforce of the future. She wanted our kids to be prepared to succeed and I know Hollis schools thank her for the groundwork she laid in the 90’s right here in Concord, in support of their academic excellence. Susan’s love of education no doubt inspired her appointment to the House Education Committee in 1991. With that as her home turf in the statehouse, she was appointed to the Statewide Education Improvement Committee in December of ‘94 and she served as its chairperson from 1997-2000, when she retired from the state service. Susan’s daughter, Beth, sent me some articles Representative Durham wrote for the Hollis Times to explain her work in Concord. Here’s an excerpt is from November 1993, “the committee voted Ought to Pass as Amended on a bill allowing towns and school districts to use the official ballot for all issues before the voters. The effect would be to allow questions that are now decided at the town and school meetings to be voted on using the printed ballot that we use to elect officials. This idea flies in the face of almost 200 years of New Hampshire tradition. The town and school district meeting is the purist form of democracy in which the voter and the issues interact dynamically. The voter has the opportunity to hear both sides of the issues; he can ask questions to clear up doubts, make amendments, and learn the ramifications of these changes. I’m opposed to this bill; if people are too busy or can’t be bothered to get involved and attend the town and school meetings, then they should not try to subvert the process. Democracy isn’t perfect; there will always be problems and solving them won’t be easy. But I’m disturbed by the movement to damage or destroy our time-honored and cherished traditions. As always, I want to hear your views on state issues.” This is a leader who did not shy from expressing her positions to the voters and asking them to express theirs. Susan’s love of education and NH tradition didn’t stop at the school-house door. Her desire to educate granite staters extended to her love of nature. At one point, the town of Durham, NH recognized Sue Durham for her contributions to the State of New Hampshire and her dedication to environmental conservation and education. She was firmly grounded and stalwart in the best traditions of the Granite State. Susan’s volunteer activities included being a walk leader at Beaver Brook Conservation in Hollis, a nature educator at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, she was a member of the Hollis school board, and later, vice president of the Hollis school board. She was a member of the Hollis planning board, and she spent 10 years on the Hollis zoning board, where we sat next to each other for 6 of those years until she retired in 2020. She was a trustee at Beaver Brook Association, vice president of Beaver Brook Association, and even president of Beaver Brook Association; a unique and special conservation organization located in our town. She was a long-standing member of the Hollis Woman’s Club, where we got to laugh together at the annual Strawberry Festival hulling party, and she served on the board of directors for the League of Women Voters and was an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Milford, and also Hampshire Hills, where she enjoyed water aerobics into her 70’s and 80’s. Susan gave of herself generously, she laughed easily, and she pursued a creative inner life through reading, quilting, sewing, and finding meaningful way to stay connected with family and friends. We have a Declaration of Recognition from the House for her family here with us today that is signed by our Speaker, and ends with, “the New Hampshire House of Representatives gives its plaudits and accolades to Susan B. Durham for dedicating her life in service to others, for being a trusted friend, a mentor, and the embodiment of the good work being done in the State of New Hampshire.” I wouldn’t want to try and improve on that. To Beth, George, Kimberly, Alison and all who knew and loved Susan B. Durham, we share in your loss of this bright light who dedicated her time here to helping others learn how to shine. Thank you.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Rep. Osborne moved that the Consent Calendar with the relevant amendments as printed in the day's House Record be adopted.

Consent Calendar was adopted.

SB 456, establishing the commission for children's futures. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. The majority believes that this bill is a thoughtful, low-cost step that brings together the right voices to examine gaps in how we serve and protect New Hampshire's children. It ensures we are making informed, data-driven decisions rather than acting in silos or without a full understanding of the system. For those reasons, the majority of the committee supported an Ought to Pass recommendation. Vote 10-2.

SB 515-FN, relative to judicial determinations related to children placed in a qualified residential treatment program in certain juvenile matters and appointment of counsel in certain circumstances. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Kimberly Rice for Children and Family Law. The committee supports this bill because it establishes a thoughtful framework to improve program delivery while ensuring taxpayer funds are used responsibly. The bill clarifies how the program operates, sets appropriate guardrails for implementation, and provides necessary oversight to ensure transparency and accountability. By including these safeguards, the bill allows us to move forward with a policy that is both effective and fiscally responsible, while giving the legislature the ability to monitor its success. Vote 16-0.

SB 408-FN, relative to health insurance coverage for prosthetics. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Julie Miles for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill expands current law, which requires coverage of prosthetic devices for children, to include coverage for adults, including activity-specific prosthetic devices. Testimony in the committee highlighted these devices restore mobility, improve physical and mental health, and can reduce long-term healthcare costs associated with sedentary lifestyles and chronic disease. The amendment adopted by the committee refines the structure of this coverage expansion. It preserves existing protections for children, including access to one activity-specific prosthetic device per plan year, while extending coverage to adults with appropriate utilization parameters — allowing one activity-specific prosthetic device every five years and permitting utilization management to ensure responsible use. The amendment also maintains that medically necessary prosthetic devices are not subject to annual limits. Additionally, the amendment clarifies applicability by extending these requirements to group health insurance policies and explicitly including the State of New Hampshire employee health benefit plan under RSA 21-L, ensuring alignment between private insurance markets and the state plan. The bill, as amended, represents a balanced approach that expands access to essential prosthetic care while incorporating reasonable cost controls and consistent coverage standards. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (1505h)

Amend RSA 415:18-ff, I and II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Each insurer that issues or renews a policy of group ~~or blanket accident or~~ health insurance providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses shall provide coverage for prosthetic devices, including activity-specific prosthetic devices, for children under 19 years of age, who are residents of this state and covered by such insurance. The insurer may limit coverage for activity-specific prosthetic devices to one activity-specific prosthetic device per plan year. Medically necessary prosthetic devices shall not be subject to any annual limits. Coverage under this section shall be subject to such other terms and conditions of the policy that may apply.

II. *Each insurer that issues or renews a policy of group health insurance providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses shall provide coverage for prosthetic devices, including activity-specific prosthetic devices, for individuals over 19 years of age who are residents of this state and covered by such insurance. The insurer may limit coverage for activity-specific prosthetic devices to one activity-specific prosthetic device every 5 years and may apply utilization management, including limiting or excluding coverage if the covered person has received an activity-specific device in the last 5 years. Medically necessary prosthetic devices shall not be subject to any annual limits. Coverage under this section shall be subject to such other terms and conditions of the policy that may apply, including any applicable cost sharing. This section shall also apply to the state of New Hampshire's employee health benefit plan under RSA 21-I.*

SB 548-FN, relative to health carrier provider contract standards. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill provides that, when termination of a contract between a health carrier and provider will affect 1,000 or more covered persons, the Insurance Commissioner will hold a hearing for the purpose of considering how the contract termination will affect access to care in the community. As amended, the Department of Insurance, by rulemaking, will create a standard form letter that will be mailed by the health insurance companies to the affected covered persons. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (1484h)

Amend RSA 420-J:8, XI as inserted by section 2 of the bill by inserting after paragraph (c) the following new subparagraph:

(d) The commissioner may adopt rules under RSA 541-A to further specify the content of and process for providing notice to consumers when a contract is terminated.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 2 with the following:

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2026-1484h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows the insurance commissioner to hold an informational public hearing when a health carrier ends a provider contract affecting 1,000 or more patients, requires continued access to the provider for a limited period; requires written notice of the contract termination; and authorizes the insurance department to adopt rules regarding notice of termination of provider contracts.

SB 610-FN, requiring an opportunity for public comment prior to proposed long-term care rate increases under certain circumstances. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill relocates a provision on the Insurance Commissioner's rulemaking authority on loss ratio standards for long-term care policies within statute, authorizes approval of innovative care policies, revises the criteria for disapproving insurance forms, and permits public hearings with discretionary disclosure of form and rate filings. Because implementing this bill as proposed would be impossible, the committee amendment replaced the entire bill and provides that the commissioner may approve innovative short or long-term care policies or certificates and the rates, provided the commissioner finds that: (a) issuance or delivery is not contrary to the best interest of the public, and (b) the benefits are reasonable in relation to the premium charged. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (1497h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT allowing the insurance commissioner to approve innovative short or long-term care policies.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Disclosure and Performance Standards for Long-Term Care Insurance. Amend RSA 415-D:5 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, the insurance commissioner may approve innovative short or long-term care policies or certificates and rates, provided the commissioner finds that:

(a) Issuance or delivery is not contrary to the best interest of the public; and

(b) The benefits are reasonable in relation to the premium charged.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2026-1497h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows the insurance commissioner to approve innovative short or long-term care policies or certificates and rates that the commissioner finds are reasonable and in the public interest.

SB 657-FN, (New Title) creating a study commission to oversee the use of artificial intelligence in the state. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The Information Technology Council is a body under RSA 21-R:6 that advises the Commissioner of Information Technology on statewide technology strategy, procurement, standards, and budgeting. As amended by 2026-1491h, this bill adds artificial intelligence (AI) to the council's advisory charge, including compliance with RSA 5-D, opportunities to improve government efficiency, and workforce effects. RSA 5-D, enacted in 2024, is the state's AI governance statute, prohibiting certain uses, requiring human review of high-stakes AI decisions, and tasking the Department of Information Technology with oversight and annual reporting. The amendment also adds AI to the subjects for technical committees under RSA 21-R:7 and creates a new RSA 21-R:9-b requiring a public inventory of state agency AI systems and a consolidated annual report that satisfies the existing RSA 5-D:5, III reporting requirement. Housing this work within the council leverages existing governance rather than duplicating it. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (1491h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the use of information technology and artificial intelligence systems by state agencies.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Department of Information Technology; Information Technology Council. RSA 21-R:6, I is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

I. There is established an information technology council to advise the commissioner on the following:

- (a) Statewide strategic technology plans.
- (b) Outsourcing relationships, including those involving the purchase, lease, or rent of technology equipment and vendor contract terms.
- (c) Computer systems consolidation.
- (d) Implementation of centralized services.
- (e) Changes in information technology resources.
- (f) Statewide information technology policies and standards.
- (g) Budgeting for information technology.
- (h) The security of data shared with the federal government, methods to improve state data security practices, and suggested legislation, policies, and procedures to limit data sharing when its confidentiality cannot be assured.
- (i) The development, procurement, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence systems by state agencies, including:
 - (1) Compliance with RSA 5-D, the department's code of ethics for artificial intelligence systems, and safeguards for the right of privacy guaranteed by part I, article 2-b of the New Hampshire constitution;
 - (2) Opportunities to improve government efficiency, transparency, and accountability through artificial intelligence; and
 - (3) The effects of artificial intelligence on the state workforce, including training needs and changes to employment patterns.

2 Department of Information Technology; Technical Committees. RSA 21-R:7 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

21-R:7 Technical Committees.

I. The commissioner may establish technical committees to advise him or her on technical issues relating to, but not limited to:

- (a) Hardware, software, and telecommunications standards.
- (b) Information technology planning processes.
- (c) Development of statewide policies and procedures.
- (d) Emerging Internet and intranet technologies.
- (e) E-government strategy and deployment.
- (f) Wide area network efficiencies.
- (g) Cybersecurity.
- (h) Cloud technologies or strategies.
- (i) Artificial intelligence technologies, including generative artificial intelligence, automated decision systems, and machine learning.

II. Personnel from all 3 branches of state government with expertise and knowledge in the applicable subject areas shall be represented on each committee.

3 New Section; Department of Information Technology; Artificial Intelligence Inventory and Annual Report. Amend RSA 21-R by inserting after section 9-a the following new section:

21-R:9-b Artificial Intelligence Inventory and Annual Report.

I. The commissioner shall maintain a current inventory of all artificial intelligence systems, as defined in RSA 5-D:1, deployed by executive branch agencies. The inventory shall include, for each system, the name and vendor, the agencies using the system, a brief description of its purpose and function, whether the system is used in making decisions affecting the rights or benefits of individuals, and the date of deployment. The inventory shall be posted on the department's website and updated not less than annually.

II. On or before October 1 of each year, the commissioner, in consultation with the information technology council, shall submit a report to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library. The report shall satisfy the annual reporting requirement of RSA 5-D:5, III. The report shall include:

- (a) A summary of the inventory maintained under paragraph I, including any changes from the prior year;
- (b) An assessment of agency compliance with RSA 5-D;
- (c) A summary of efficiency gains, cost savings, or service improvements attributable to artificial intelligence deployment;
- (d) Any incidents involving the unauthorized use or disclosure of personal information by an artificial intelligence system;
- (e) The effects of artificial intelligence on workforce composition and training needs; and
- (f) Recommendations for legislation, policy changes, or additional safeguards.

III. For the first report submitted under this section, the commissioner may limit the inventory and efficiency data to information reasonably available and shall establish baseline metrics against which subsequent reports shall measure progress.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2026-1491h
AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Changes the advice the commissioner of the department of information technology receives from the information technology council.

II. Allows the commissioner to establish an artificial intelligence-related advisement committee.

III. Requires the commissioner to submit an annual report detailing state agency use of artificial intelligence systems.

SB 467-FN, relative to the penalty for certain fentanyl-related offenses and establishing a mandatory minimum sentence for the crime of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.** Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee wishes to evaluate the current state of the fentanyl crisis in New Hampshire and debate this bill based on facts and data that are not available to us in the short time we have. Vote 11-0.

SB 512-FN, relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee agreed that when the state failed to meet its burden to prove someone is guilty of a crime, the state and not the defendant should bear the cost of clearing the criminal record of the formerly accused. Vote 12-0.

SB 557-FN, (Second New Title) making synthetic and semisynthetic kratom illegal to prepare, distribute, manufacture, sell, possess, or advertise, with exceptions made for scientific research. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee after hearing from experts and members of the public, determined that the concentrated and often semi-synthetic substance derived from kratom called 7-OH, has become a serious public safety crisis in New Hampshire and around the country. The importation of highly potent, synthesized "kratom" is available to adults and children alike in gas stations and convenience stores across the state. These products, that bear very little resemblance to the kratom leaf itself, are untested by the USDA or any other government health and safety agency. Simply put, there is no way to know exactly what is in them or how potent the kratom extract is. As the commercial sale of kratom derived products is relatively new, we do not have the same scientific information that we do for fentanyl and heroin. What we do know is 7-OH is in fact a drug that works similarly to opioids and that it is both addictive and dangerous. We also know it is being manufactured and imported from China and other countries with dubious product safety track records. Finally, we know it's being marketed and sold as kratom and it is in fact not kratom, any more than fentanyl is an opium poppy. This bill stops the sale of these products in any establishment licensed by the liquor commission. This included anyone selling tobacco products as well. This does not impact businesses offering the natural kratom leaf therapies, who many people claim have helped them with various ailments including chronic pain and depression. The Senate version of the bill would have added 7-OH to the schedule of illegal drugs, and while many committee members think this is appropriate, others urged caution while waiting for the DEA to take action. Neither the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services or Department of Safety have asked us to add this substance to our controlled substance schedule, though the Liquor Commission did support this version of the bill. The FDA has asked the DEA to add the concentrated semi-synthetic extract of kratom to the federal controlled substance schedule and the DEA has indicated that it is working on it now. This bill is a stop-gap compromise that will remove these dangerous products from the majority of stores where it can be bought by children as well as adults who may not be aware of the dangers it poses. Once the DEA adds it to the federal schedule, no further legislation will be necessary. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (1473h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT making it illegal for liquor commission licensees to sell, distribute, furnish, offer for sale, advertise, manufacture, possess, or allow the ingestion, inhalation, smoking, or vaping of certain kratom products.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Alcoholic Beverages; Definitions and General Provisions; Definitions. Amend RSA 175:1 by inserting after paragraph LXIV-g the following new paragraph:

LXIV-h. "Unauthorized Kratom Products" means any consumable kratom product, including, but not limited to, edibles, liquids, powders, capsules, tablets, extracts, inhalants, or vapor products that fall into one or more of the following categories:

(a) An alkaloid or alkaloid derivative contained in a kratom leaf extract that has been exposed to chemicals or processes that confer a structural change in the alkaloids, including, but not limited to, oxidation, reduction, and ring opening or closing, resulting in material that has been chemically altered.

(b) An alkaloid or alkaloid derivative of the kratom leaf that has been created by chemical synthesis or biosynthetic means, including fermentation, recombinant techniques, yeast-driven techniques, and enzymatic techniques, rather than by traditional food preparation techniques, such as heating or extracting.

(c) Purified mitragynine with enhanced levels of 7-hydroxymitragynine that are not found in the natural kratom leaf.

2 Enforcement, Requirements and Penalties; Premises Restrictions; Unlawful Purpose. RSA 179:50 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

179:50 Unlawful Purpose.

I. No licensee shall use, or allow to be used, their premises for any purpose contrary to law.

II. No licensee shall permit or allow the on-premises ingestion, inhalation, smoking, or vaping of any unauthorized kratom products, as defined by RSA 175:1, LXIV -h, on any licensed premises.

III. No licensee shall sell, distribute, furnish, offer for sale, advertise, manufacture, or possess any unauthorized kratom products as defined by RSA 175:1, LXIV-h.

IV. The penalty for violations of paragraph II or paragraph III shall be determined by the state liquor commission in accordance with rules adopted under RSA 541-A. However, a second offense under paragraph II or paragraph III shall result in revocation of the license.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-1473h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes it illegal for liquor commission licensees to sell, distribute, furnish, offer for sale, advertise, manufacture, possess, or allow the ingestion, inhalation, smoking, or vaping of certain kratom products.

SB 622-FN, relative to the offense of identity fraud. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill ensures that individuals who falsely represent themselves as an authorized agent of a business or government entity with the intent to defraud can be prosecuted under identity fraud statutes. This provides essential protections for New Hampshire's business community and public institutions against sophisticated phishing and "spoofing" schemes that target organizational data and assets. The committee found this to be a common-sense update to our criminal code. As identity theft increasingly targets organizations to gain access to bulk consumer data or financial accounts, our laws must recognize that an "identity" can belong to an entity as well as an individual. By adding "entities" to the definition of a victim and prohibiting the unauthorized use of an entity's identifying information, such as logos or tax IDs, for fraudulent purposes, we provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to combat modern fraud. Vote 12-0.

SB 625-FN, (New Title) establishing a committee to study options for family members of intentional homicide victims where the department of justice does not file charges in a case. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Terry Roy for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee agreed that it was an appropriate use of a study committee to determine if it is possible to provide any relief to victims of crime who do not feel that their case was properly prosecuted. The committee understands that constitutionally, the sole authority to prosecute resides with the executive branch and no other branch may compel them to bring charges in any case. That being said, it is possible to put in place mechanisms to make that process more transparent and responsive to victim inquiry and input. It is the intent of the committee that the study committee examine options for that and make recommendations. Vote 13-0.

SB 580-FN, (New Title) relative to establishing a school cooperative purchasing program. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Rick Ladd for Education Funding. As introduced, this bill contains three separate, non-related sections: 1) establishing a school cooperative purchasing program; 2) requires school boards and board of trustees of public charter schools to develop and adopt policies; and 3) authorizes the State Board of Education to place a school or school administrative unit (SAU) into receivership in cases of operational and performance issues, including financial mismanagement or under performance. During testimony, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) indicated that the bill overlooks current actions of the Division of Procurement and Support Services. The department already has applicable contracts established and managed by DAS containing access for eligible participants and various political subdivisions such as school districts, nonprofit agencies under the provisions of section 501(c) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and more. Schools, at their sole discretion, are encouraged to participate in the program that involves cost savings and a wide range of vendors. In regard to part two of the bill, school boards are currently required to develop and adopt district policies in accordance with Ed 303.01 and Ed 306.04. Local school boards are responsible for implementing these administrative policies and duties; this part of the bill is duplicative of current practice. In regard to part three, the House previously passed by an overwhelming voice vote HB 1816, relative to the intervention of the Department of Education into a school or school district during a financial emergency. With the passage of HB 1816, the Commissioner of the Department of Education will

have the authority to assist a school district or school in developing a recovery plan and to oversee such plan to leverage resources to address core financial needs. The committee unanimously agrees that intervention or assistance provided to a school or school district in a financial emergency is best handled in accordance with procedures outlined in HB 1816 and not through receivership as stated in this bill. In summary, after considering the three elements of this bill, the committee unanimously recommends Inexpedient to Legislate, as the bill is not needed. Vote 17-0.

SB 624-FN, restricting access to certain hemp-derived products. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.** Rep. Jonah Wheeler for Environment and Agriculture. This bill addresses a gap in the law that allows retailers to sell intoxicating synthetic cannabis products. This legislation defines these products, and restricts the sale of them. The bill protects our consumers who are using legal CBD products which are not intoxicating; while also protecting our children from purchasing synthetic cannabis products that have been allowed under this gap that is fixed by this legislation. This bill is the result of a thorough review by the House Environment and Agriculture Committee, the Liquor Commission's enforcement division, and representatives of the cannabis industry. Vote 13-2.

Amendment (1499h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Hemp; Prohibitions. Amend RSA 439-A:4 to read as follows:

439-A:4 Hemp-Derived Products Containing THC Prohibited.

I. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the sale of products that are derived from hemp which contain natural or synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) greater than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis, which appear in any formulation, including delta-8 THC, delta-9 THC, **THCA**, or any other THC isomer variant. ***Such products are prohibited.***

II. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(a) Final hemp-derived cannabinoid products shall not include products that contain more than 0.4 mg total THC per container, including all forms of tetrahydrocannabinols (including delta-9 THC and THCA) and other cannabinoids with similarly intoxicating effects.

(b) Products exceeding this limit are not authorized for sale, and are excluded from the legal definition of hemp.

III. A corporation or unincorporated association that knowingly sells a product in violation of this section shall be guilty of a violation and subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for a first, second, or third offense, and guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed \$20,000 for any fourth or subsequent offense. A writ of execution may be issued by the court against the corporation or unincorporated association who violates this section to compel payment of the fine, together with costs and interest.

2026-1499h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill sets penalties applicable to corporations and unincorporated associations for possession of certain hemp-derived products, directs liquor licensees to comply with the prohibition, and amends the definition of hemp.

SB 400, relative to duties and reporting requirements of the therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would expand upon the existing duty of the therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board (TCMOB) by requiring a methodically documented review of all available data on all currently approved and additional qualifying conditions every two years. The TCMOB already reviews medical literature relative to therapeutic cannabis. Additionally, medical specialty groups typically undertake a robust analysis of all data on a 3-5 year cycle with numerous professionals dedicating significant time to this process. As a volunteer board which already meets twice as frequently as statutorily required, mandating a review process twice as frequently as industry standards would likely impact board participation and reduce the ability of the board to fulfill other statutorily required duties. One proponent of the bill suggested hiring researchers to conduct this work, with the cost assessed to the three non-profit alternative treatment centers (ATC). Testimony from the ATCs made clear that the expense would ultimately be paid by the patients accessing therapeutic cannabis at New Hampshire ATCs. The committee notes that the TCMOB will hold a hearing to review medical evidence on hepatitis C and glaucoma soon, demonstrating the board's ongoing efforts regarding medical oversight and data analysis. Recognizing that the TCMOB annual report does not always include information on the board's review of medical literature, the amendment would require documentation of these reviews including findings and recommendations backed up by literature citations. Vote 13-1.

Amendment (1309h)

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board; Reporting Requirement. Amend RSA 126-X:12, VI to read as follows:

VI. On or before January 1 of each year, the board shall make a report to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the oversight committee on health and human services established under RSA 126-A:13, the board of medicine, and the board of nursing. ***The report shall include documentation of the board's reviews of currently approved and additional qualifying medical conditions, including the board's findings and recommendations, and citations to the medical and scientific evidence reviewed by the board.***

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2026-1309h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the annual report by the therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board to include documentation of the board's review of currently approved and additional qualifying medical conditions, including the board's findings and recommendations, and citations to the medical and scientific evidence reviewed by the board.

SB 425, (New Title) adopting the physician associate licensure compact. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.** Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would have New Hampshire join a multi-state compact for physician associate licensure which is currently in the process of forming. The compact has exceeded the seven state threshold to begin forming, and rules are expected in early 2027. The committee believes that it would be unwise to join an interstate compact before the rules are established and without a seat at the table. The committee expects to see a bill filed in the next session to ready New Hampshire to join the compact after the rules are known. Vote 14-0.

SB 457-FN, (New Title) relative to the licensing of physicians who graduated from medical schools outside of the United States or Canada. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Paul Dargie for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill has the admirable goal of trying to implement licensing changes that will attract more physicians to New Hampshire to hopefully alleviate the physician shortage. The problem is that the bill is severely deficient with regards to public safety. The bill unwisely proposes that international physicians bypass oversight by the Board of Medicine, they do not need to have their boards passed in the United States, they can have fewer clinical practice hours, and fraudulent physicians are not properly vetted. Physicians from outside of North America should meet the same standards that are required by the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact (IMLC). Vote 14-0.

SB 494-FN, relative to the state fire code, fire incident reporting and investigations, and the duties of the state fire marshal. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill updated the fire code to the 2024 edition with amendments consistent with normal state code process, modifies the procedures for reporting and investigation of fires to include the state fire marshal when the cause, origin, and circumstance of a fire indicates it was the result of design or of suspicious origin, allows the state fire marshal to conduct inspections when local officials are not available and charge fees as set in rules, and enables information sharing between the fire marshal and the office of professional licensure and certification to the minimum extent required to enable the state fire marshal to contact current and past licensees of the mechanical licensing board and electrical board. The bill splits the current language in RSA 153:11 by moving the state fire marshal investigation of suspicious fires to the more appropriate RSA 153:18, and grants rulemaking authority regarding incident reports. The committee believes that this grants rulemaking authority to better define the size of incident subject to reporting and the form of reporting, and not an expansion in scope beyond the prior language in RSA 153:11. Vote 13-0.

SB 502-FN, (New Title) removing references to the department of business and economic affairs and the office of planning and development, and makes various changes to how certain committees and commissions participate or operate. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Erica Layon for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill removes references to the Department of Business and Economic Affairs and the office of planning and development, and makes changes to membership on the New Hampshire Community Development Advisory Committee, allows the retirement system independent investment committee and the New Hampshire healthcare workplace safety commission to meet remotely, adds clarity on the Department of Labor penalty appeal board, and clarifies that certain safety provisions apply to employers. These are minor but important changes and the committee supports passage. Vote 14-0.

SB 510-FN, ensuring state-operated, publicly accessible spaces have designated smoking areas undetectable to visitors. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Glenn Bailey for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would require any publicly owned or publicly operated property accessible to the public to provide public smoking areas to be "constructed

or maintained so that smoke is not detectable in any public or common area” which presents questions on implementation. Current law puts this responsibility on the person in charge of such a facility, rather than mandating a potentially confusing process. Additionally, studies have not established any clear standard for optimal distances of outdoor non-smoking zones. Vote 12-1.

SB 530-FN, relative to fetal death reporting to the Centers for Disease Control. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jaci Grote for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill is a continuation of the work started with SB 92 last year. Whereas SB 92 protected the privacy of parents after the birth of a newborn baby, SB 530 expands privacy rights after the loss of a pregnancy to a miscarriage. This bill limits the information shared by DHHS to the CDC when reporting fetal deaths, including parental names, full dates of birth, medical record numbers, or addresses. The bill allows for the release of parental birth years and fetal delivery dates. The bill also clarifies terminology recorded on fetal death forms. The committee felt, unanimously, this was in line with the position of the NH House in protecting privacy of Granite Staters. Vote 16-0.

SB 656-FN, establishing a web-based occupational license application portal for veterans and military spouses. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Fred Davis for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would create a licensing concierge for military spouses and veterans. For well over a decade, New Hampshire has worked to reduce the burden of licensing on all people and on veterans, military, and their spouses in particular. This bill would essentially green-light a particular company seeking to help and require a new interface for this software to enter license applications into the current online system for license applications for all. Testimony focused on national trends and issues, and not on specific challenges faced in New Hampshire by military spouses, veterans, and their spouses. New Hampshire licensing for all applicants is faster than the time frame cited in testimony, and unlike other states, New Hampshire allows applications without a physical presence in the state. The committee further thanks current and former military members, their spouses, and their families for the sacrifices they make on behalf of us all. Vote 13-0.

SB 441-FN, (New Title) relative to the financial responsibility for local assistance and enabling municipalities to request a hearing regarding the residency of an assisted person. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Steven Kesselring for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The majority of the committee voted to refer this bill for Interim Study as this is a real issue, however there are issues with the bill that need addressing. The bill requires municipalities to have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) before transporting individuals for substance use treatment, setting clear service, cost, and coordination terms. It also raises concerns around implementation, enforcement, and local control that warrant further review to get it right. Vote 17-1.

SB 414, relative to enforcement of marital property settlements. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Kristine Perez for Judiciary. This bill provides that if a court finds any party in contempt relative to a marital property settlement it must fashion a remedy that “immediately” rectifies the cause of the contempt, “if practicable.” The committee felt that this bill would be difficult to enforce with subjective wording such as “immediately” as well as “if practicable.” Also, the occurrence of such incidents appear to be on a very limited basis and might best be handled by the individual courts on a case by case basis. Vote 16-1.

SB 459, (New Title) exempting classification of individuals based on biological sex from the definition of an unlawful discriminatory practice in certain limited circumstances. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Paul Berch for Judiciary. This bill requires that participation in school athletics, as well as access to associated locker rooms, be determined based on a person’s biological sex as assigned at birth. It also mandates that inmates in the New Hampshire State Prison system be housed on that same basis. In addition, the bill would apply to individuals involuntarily committed to mental health facilities. Members of the committee expressed differing concerns. Some believe the bill is underinclusive and too limited in scope, arguing that it should apply more broadly in other contexts. Others oppose the bill on policy grounds, believing its underlying purpose is flawed. Additionally, some members raised serious constitutional concerns. Vote 18-0.

SB 519-FN, relative to the use of unmanned aerial systems. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Kevin Scully for Judiciary. The Judiciary Committee is in unanimous agreement that the issue of protecting personal privacy in a world with ever-increasing intrusive technology does require serious consideration. The committee also believes that this bill, which attempts to protect privacy from intrusive drone surveillance, does have merit, but is not ready to pass into law in its current form. We believe something should be done and we want to write this bill as perfectly as we can to guard against unforeseen shortcomings and unintended consequences. Three separate amendments to the bill have already been submitted for this bill and the committee will include their content for our consideration regarding necessary changes and improvements. However, the committee believes that, at present, too many questions remain as to how the law should operate in this area to make it appropriate to enact legislation without further study. Vote 18-0.

SB 619-FN, establishing procedures for expedited court hearings and disposition of confiscated animals. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Katelyn Kuttat for Judiciary. This bill establishes procedures for expedited court hearings and disposition of animals confiscated due to allegations of animal cruelty. The amendment removes a provision of the bill as it came to us from the other body that would have allowed forfeiture of animals to the seizing agency if the owner failed to post a bond of up to \$1,000 for each seized animal. The committee felt that this provision raised fairness and potentially constitutional issues in the case of persons who may be financially unable to post such bonds. Left in the bill, however, is the provision requiring a status hearing before the court within 14 days of the date of the seizure. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (1347h)

Amend RSA RSA 644:8, IV(a)(3) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(3) Courts shall give cases in which animals have been confiscated by an arresting officer priority on the court calendar. In cases in which animals have been confiscated by an arresting officer or his or her agency, a status hearing shall be held by the court within 14 days of the confiscation of the animals.

(A) A purpose of the hearing shall be to determine whether the confiscation of the animal or animals was lawful in accordance with paragraph IV-a. Upon such a showing, the court may make a determination of temporary custody that is in the best interest of the animal's health, safety, and wellbeing. If the confiscated animal is co-owned by the defendant, the court may transfer the custody of the animal to the remaining owner or co-owners equitably if the court determines that such is in the best interest of the animal's health, safety, and wellbeing. The court may also address any other matters before it as raised by either party or if it is in the interests of justice. Upon request from either party or by order of the court, this hearing may include the defendant's arraignment. Waiver of the arraignment by the defendant shall not waive the 14 day hearing set forth in this paragraph.

(B) If the accused fails to appear in court without giving prior notice within 3 days of the hearing date, or, if less than 3 days notice, without evidence of emergent circumstances, the hearing shall take place as scheduled and the court may rule on any matters before it.

SB 529-FN, giving preference to lumber sourced in the United States on all state-funded building projects. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. This bill would require all State of New Hampshire-funded building projects to give preference to lumber harvested in the United States. The driver behind this preference is how American lumber is graded versus Canadian lumber. Some 30 odd years ago, the United States and Canada developed separate grading systems to label the strength of framing lumber. Canadian lumber is labeled SPF, while American lumber is labeled SPF's. However, these grading specifications have given Canadian lumber a competitive advantage over American lumber. From the testimony provided to the committee, North Country logging communities are at an economic disadvantage by the SPF's designation even though the wood cut and milled on both sides of the border is nearly identical. While the committee recognizes the fact that the state lacks authority on changing lumber grading standards, we can exercise some influence on how the state purchases lumber for its own construction projects. Consequently, the committee was united in its unanimous support for the bill to further promote American lumber with its projects. Vote 14-0.

SB 541-FN-A, (New Title) relative to capital appropriations for regional drinking water infrastructure. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Bill Boyd for Public Works and Highways. This bill does two things: 1) It makes a \$65,000 appropriation to the Department of Environmental Services to assist the Pillsbury Lake Village District in Hillsborough in remedying loan costs associated with their water system upgrades; and 2) It reallocates \$5 million of an approved appropriation of \$50 million to the Department of Environmental Services for PFOA/PFOS remediation, and drinking water and wastewater residuals to the Phase 2B Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Interconnect Project. Both funding sources provide the village district and regional project a continued path forward to providing clean and potable drinking water to those neighborhoods benefitting from these projects. Most importantly, the interconnect will provide a needed link to neighborhoods in Rockingham County impacted by cyanobacteria and PFOA/PFOS pollution. Please note that these items are not requests for new money appropriations, but rather reallocations and assignments of monies already appropriated through HB 2 of 2025 and HB 1264 of 2020. Vote 15-0.

SB 632-FN, relative to a certain highway sign in Concord. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Michael Edgar for Public Works and Highways. This bill requested authorization for the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, or its successor entity, to install and maintain one advertising device near Exit 12 on Interstate 93 for the sole purpose of promoting nonprofit events and destinations in downtown Concord. While this is a commendable goal, there were concerns expressed by several committee members. There were concerns that the sign would not comply with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, the

State of New Hampshire agreement with the administration and federal highway and appears to grant an exception to the Outdoor Advertising Control Statutes RSA 236:69-88. If the sign was allowed there was concern that the federal government would withhold 10% of federal highway revenue at some point in the future. Also, the sign owner could then seek reimbursement of expenses for the sign from the state. This could cause litigation and a financial burden on the state. There was an effort to convince the committee that the existing sign was grandfathered and not subject to the current laws. Some committee members felt that due to sign changes from the original, that grandfathering status would be challenged. Of concern to several members was the safety of the sign placement on a curve near an exit. Also, there were safety concerns with the distraction of trying to read a sign, and concentrate on driving due to the placement, type and layout. It was therefore decided to Refer the bill to Interim Study. Vote 15-0.

SB 595, (New Title) relative to rulemaking for transient non-community water systems. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Will Darby for Resources, Recreation and Development. Transient non-community water systems supply drinking water to at least 25 different people daily. This bill is the result of a constituent concern where a quarterly water test that was inadvertently missed triggered a monthly testing schedule along with the associated, increased costs. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Services to align with federal regulations in these cases to retain a quarterly testing schedule. The committee amendment adjusts the language as suggested by the department and retains the option to impose fines to enforce the statute in the extraordinarily rare case of defiant offenders. Vote 14-0.

Amendment (1367h)

Amend RSA 485:3, I(c) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(c) Criteria and procedures to assure compliance with the levels or methods determined under subparagraph (b), including quality control monitoring and testing procedures and standards to ensure compliance with such levels or methods; criteria and standards to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the system; requirements as to the minimum quality of water which may be delivered to the consumer; and requirements with respect to siting new facilities. Such rules shall be no less stringent than the most recent national Primary Drinking Water Regulations in effect, as issued or promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Such rules shall include the option for transient non-community water systems to remain on quarterly sampling if a sample is missed consistent with the criteria and procedures in 40 C.F.R. section 141.854 et seq, as amended from time to time.* Amend RSA 485:3, I(c) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(c) Criteria and procedures to assure compliance with the levels or methods determined under subparagraph (b), including quality control monitoring and testing procedures and standards to ensure compliance with such levels or methods; criteria and standards to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the system; requirements as to the minimum quality of water which may be delivered to the consumer; and requirements with respect to siting new facilities. Such rules shall be no less stringent than the most recent national Primary Drinking Water Regulations in effect, as issued or promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Such rules shall include the option for transient non-community water systems to remain on quarterly sampling if a sample is missed consistent with the criteria and procedures in 40 C.F.R. section 141.854 et seq, as amended from time to time.*

SB 447, enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources, and relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities and limitations on community customer generators. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill attempted to meld two bills from last year to allow utilities to use purchase power agreements (PPAs) to procure nuclear power from new and existing sources. Unfortunately, the bill had many missing pieces and extra parts that seemed out of place. It did not accomplish its goals and the committee concluded that it could not go forward. Vote 18-0.

SB 560, modernizing the New Hampshire coordinate system. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Douglas Thomas for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill modernizes and clarifies the framework governing NH coordinate systems used in land surveying and mapping by formally adopting the most recent coordinate system released by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), updating terminology, and establishing usage restrictions. Testimony revealed that state taxpayers would incur no costs for this update and no highway, building or property markers would be affected. No changes would be needed by town planners or registrars of deeds. No further updates would be needed. Vote 14-0.

SB 590-FN, relative to electric aggregation plans. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. John Larochelle for Science, Technology and Energy. This enabling legislation provides additional tools to finance municipal energy projects, which may lower costs for all ratepayers and taxes for municipal residents. It creates another type of revolving fund specific to energy projects. Vote 17-1.

SB 472, removing the maximum age on the tenure of office for the position of deputy adjutant general. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Tom Mannion for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. The committee believes that the role of the Deputy Adjutant General should not be held to different standards from corresponding administrative roles within other departments of the state. Since this position is confirmed by the Executive Council every four years, there is already a limiting mechanism on service should a replacement be sought. With the merging of previous veteran-focused agencies into the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, this position is administrative in nature and is not within the military chain of command. It focuses on support services and the management of the state's veterans' cemetery. As such, the committee unanimously supported Ought to Pass on this measure. Vote 13-0.

SB 473, defining the term "field officers" within the national guard. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Raymond Plante for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This measure which was requested by the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, seeks to modernize the promotion process for New Hampshire National Guard officers by addressing administrative inefficiencies and wording within the current executive council review requirement. Under Article 46 of the New Hampshire Constitution, all field officers—specifically majors, lieutenant colonels, and colonels—must be nominated and appointed by the Governor and Council. While traditionally intended for high-level commanders, this requirement now encompasses numerous majors in specialized staff roles, creating an unnecessary procedural burden that delays timely promotions. Such delays prevent federally recognized officers from receiving their entitled pay and benefits; therefore, this legislation ensures our service members are compensated and ranked equitably without redundant administrative oversight. Vote 13-0.

SB 617, relative to the removal of abandoned vehicles by law enforcement. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Henry Giasson for Transportation. This bill implements policy to expand background checks of contracted towing agencies to include all employees who may respond to service police requests, implements a two year restriction from the tow list for agencies which have violations or disciplinary actions in their contractual implementation, and introduces by legislation policy that had been an emergency executive action previously. The committee amendment reintroduces the language of HB 1492 which passed the House 256-84. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (1510h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the removal of abandoned vehicles by law enforcement, relative to the regulation and appeal of motor vehicle towing from public highways, and prohibiting the division of motor vehicles from suspending a license on the basis of debt owed to a private entity related to the towing or storing of a motor vehicle.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 9 with the following:

10 Fees for Removal and Impoundment of Motor Vehicles. Amend RSA 262:35-a to read as follows:

262:35-a Review of Fees for Removal and Impoundment.

I. All fees charged for the removal and storage of any vehicle caused to be removed by an authorized official pursuant to RSA 262:32 or RSA 262:40-a shall be reasonable, and may reflect market variables, including, but not limited to, distance traveled to and from the storage facility, vehicle size and weight, the amount of time needed to remove and store the vehicle, any special equipment needed, and personnel costs. ***The invoice for towing and impoundment of the vehicle shall clearly indicate the process for appeal pursuant to this section.*** If the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle wishes to challenge the reasonableness of the fee charged, the owner or other person may pay over to the custodian of the vehicle an amount equal to the towing and storage charges to secure the release of the vehicle, and, within [15] **30** days of the [~~release of the vehicle~~] ***receipt of the invoice***, request in writing a review by the commissioner of safety. The commissioner of safety or designee shall review the claim to determine if there are sufficient grounds to conduct a hearing to determine whether the charge was reasonable. If the commissioner or designee determines that a hearing is necessary, the hearing shall be scheduled by the bureau of hearings within 20 days after review by the commissioner, at which time the extent of removal and storage fees shall be determined. The commissioner or designee shall approve or disapprove of the decision of the bureau of hearings within 7 days after the hearing was held. Notwithstanding RSA 262:25, any person aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner or designee under this section may appeal the decision to the superior court in the same manner as that prescribed in RSA 263:75, II and III. If no request for review is filed within the [~~15-day~~] **30-day** period, the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle shall be deemed to have waived all rights to review under this section and shall be liable for the total amount billed.

II. Nothing in this section shall prevent a review of the reasonableness of the towing or other action as may be permitted by laws of this state by a court of competent jurisdiction.

III. Any time that a person is storing a vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision, the person may remove any items from within the vehicle that are not a part of or accessories to the vehicle. The person may hold any such items, other than wallets, purses, life essential clothing, mail, legal documents, car seats, eyeglasses, medicine, medical equipment, or house keys pending payment of any fees due under this subdivision. If fees remain unpaid after [20] **30** days, the person may dispose of the items.

11 Abandoned Vehicles; Procedure for Removal and Impoundment. Amend RSA 262:33, II and III to read as follows:

II. Whenever a vehicle is towed pursuant to RSA 262:31-a or RSA 262:32, the owner or other person lawfully entitled to the possession of the vehicle shall be entitled to recover said vehicle and release of the above lien by payment of all reasonable towing and storage charges. ***The invoice for towing and impoundment of the vehicle shall clearly indicate the process for appeal pursuant to this section.*** If the owner or other person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle wishes to challenge whether there was sufficient grounds for towing and impoundment, he or she may pay over to the custodian of the vehicle an amount equal to the towing and storage charges to secure the release of such vehicle, and, within [15] **30** days of the [towing and impoundment] ***receipt of the invoice***, request in writing a hearing.

III. The hearing shall be held before the head of the law enforcement agency which employs the authorized official who caused the vehicle to be removed and stored, or his or her designee. In the event such agency head or his or her designee determines sufficient grounds did not exist for the removal and storage of the vehicle, the law enforcement agency shall reimburse the owner or other person lawfully claiming possession for any amount paid to the custodian to secure release of the vehicle, ***or, if payment has not yet been made, order that the vehicle be immediately released from impoundment, with the agency assuming full liability of the lien.***

12 New Section; License Suspension; Failure to Pay Fines and Fees. Amend RSA 263 by inserting after section 56-g the following new section:

263:56-h License Suspension Prohibited for Unpaid Towing or Storage Fees.

I. Under no circumstances shall the director suspend, revoke, or fail to renew a driver's license for failure to pay removal and storage fees for a vehicle towed or stored for any reason.

II. A person whose driver's license has been suspended for outstanding vehicle removal or storage fees and who is otherwise eligible to drive shall have their driver's license reinstated and shall not be required to pay a reinstatement fee. No later than 30 days after the effective date of this section, the division shall, without requiring a reinstatement fee, reinstate the driver's license or nonresident operating privilege. In cases where a driver's license was not renewed due to outstanding removal and storage fees, the person shall be immediately eligible for license renewal and shall pay the same renewal fee as a driver not under suspension, but not a separate reinstatement fee.

13 License Suspension Restricted. Amend RSA 263:57, I to read as follows:

I. Any justice of [a district or municipal court] ***the circuit court*** or of the superior court may suspend any license issued to any person, for a period not to exceed 30 days, after a conviction of an offense under the provisions of this title, after [due hearing] ***a hearing where the driver had reasonable notice of the possibility of license suspension prior to the hearing***, for any cause ***not prohibited in RSA 263***, which he ***or she*** may deem sufficient.

14 Requirements for Placement on the Tow List. Amend RSA 106-B:30, XVIII to read as follows:

XVIII. The tow business shall provide state police with a complete updated list of all rates for the services it performs related to the towing and storage of vehicles, on the letterhead of the business, and shall update such list when prices change. State Police shall not set the fees for these services nor use the rate schedule provided in determining placement on a rotation schedule. ~~[Price lists shall remain confidential except when determining the reasonable fee in a requested hearing conducted by the department of safety.]~~

15 Effective Date.

I. Sections 10, 11, and 14 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2026-1510h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. This bill substantially revises the procedures and processes concerning the maintenance of and utilization of a list of contracted tow companies used by the division of state police for the removal of vehicles.

II. Requires that invoices generated from towing and impounding vehicles clearly indicate the process for appealing said tow or impoundment and extends the time period for a vehicle owner to appeal the reasonableness of towing and impoundment fees to the department of safety.

III. Prohibits the division of motor vehicles from suspending a person's license or driving privileges based on their failure to pay a debt related to a commercial entity's towing or storage of a vehicle.

SB 511-FN, (New Title) relative to state park fee discounts for state residents. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Scott Bryer for Ways and Means. This bill requires the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) to establish state park entry fees for New Hampshire residents at no more than 50% of the fees charged to non-residents. The bill also allows the department to create separate fee schedules for specific uses within state parks, such as camping, facility rental, parking, and boat rentals; and permits discounted or waived rates for veterans and school or student groups. DNCR states this bill would result in an indeterminate impact on State Park Fund revenues and expenditures. Based on FY2023 visitation data, the department estimates that approximately half of all state park visitors are residents and half are non-residents. If the department reduced the day-use fee for residents by 50%, revenue would decrease by approximately \$1.1 million. Conversely, increasing non-resident day-use fees by 100% could generate approximately \$2.2 million in additional revenue. However, the department anticipates that fee changes of this extent would deter visitation by 5 to 20%, reducing the expected revenue gain. Currently, the fees are competitive to all the neighboring states. Vote 12-0.

SB 633-FN, (New Title) relative to donations received by the granite patron of the arts fund. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Thomas Schamberg for Ways and Means. This bill, as amended, adds new explicit statutory language that codifies what was often administrative practice; it sets clear dollar-based rules requiring the Governor and Executive Council approval for large donations to the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund and has new reporting requirements that ensure that legislators receive regular, formal updates of the financial activity connected to the fund. This bill, as amended, addresses how the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund is overseen and reported on. The bill continues the fund's role in supporting arts and cultural activities in New Hampshire, consistent with current law. It does not change the basic purpose of the fund or how patrons contribute to it. In simple terms, this bill as amended allows the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund to continue operating while improving transparency and accountability. By requiring a structured quarterly report to the Fiscal Committee, the amended bill gives lawmakers better visibility of the fund's performance and costs, helping them oversee public funds and make informed decisions in the future. Vote 12-0.

Amendment (1353h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Council on the Arts; State Art Fund; Granite Patron of the Arts Fund. Amend RSA 19-A:9, II to read as follows:

II. The division and the council are authorized to institute programs to solicit and receive any gifts, grants, donations, or to receive federal matching funds made for the encouragement of the arts and to deposit such gifts, grants, or donations in the New Hampshire council on the arts fund under this section. The division and the council shall acknowledge receipt of any gifts, grants, or donations within 15 days of receipt on a form provided by the commissioner of the department of revenue administration. ***Donations greater than or equal to \$50,000 shall require the approval of the governor and executive council. Expenditures greater than or equal to \$50,000, and expenditures on employees of the division, shall require the approval of the governor and executive council, and with a report to the fiscal committee of the general court.***

III. Quarterly expenditure reports shall be filed with the governor, executive council, and the fiscal committee of the general court.

The Speaker referred Senate Bills numbered 617 and 624 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The Speaker referred Senate Bills numbered 408, 494, 541, 557, 625 and 657 to the Committee on Finance. The Speaker referred Senate Bills numbered 512, 590 and 610 to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REGULAR CALENDAR

SB 482-FN, establishing consumer protections for digital access transaction kiosks. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Keith Ammon for the **Majority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Digital asset transaction kiosks are self-service terminals that let consumers buy, sell, or transfer cryptocurrency using cash or another payment method, and while a legitimate financial service they have been increasingly exploited to defraud older consumers. As amended by 2026-1526h, this bill creates a new RSA chapter 358-U establishing uniform consumer protections, including identity verification consistent with the federal Bank Secrecy Act, a 72-hour hold and \$3,000 cap on new-customer transactions with full refund on cancellation, on-screen and large font exterior kiosk warnings, fraud-screening prompts that block transactions when the customer is being coached or is not the destination wallet's beneficiary, blockchain analytics screening of flagged addresses, pre-transaction disclosure of reference price, fees, and spread, a detailed receipt, and data-handling rules including 30-day deletion of biometric and ID data as allowed by federal law. The chapter preempts more restrictive local ordinances and is enforceable exclusively by the Attorney General under RSA 358-A, with a compliance defense for operators that follow its terms. A majority of the committee found the bill targets documented fraud patterns harming older Granite Staters while preserving a workable regulatory environment for lawful digital asset commerce. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Jared Sullivan for the **Minority** of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The minority is deeply concerned that the committee amendment fundamentally alters the purpose of this bill by removing core consumer protections and replacing them with unprecedented statutory advantages for the crypto ATM industry. By eliminating any transaction limits after a threeday “new customer” period, the committee amendment would leave New Hampshire an ongoing and attractive target for scammers, who depend on large, rapid transactions to exploit victims. It also eliminates refunds once the threeday period expires and insulates crypto ATM operators from accountability by granting broad immunity from liability, prohibiting private rights of action, providing safe harbor from enforcement actions, and preempting local control. These changes would result in the weakest statutory protections against crypto ATM-related fraud in the country. During testimony, law enforcement officials expressed strong support for the version of the bill as amended by the Senate as a necessary tool to combat fraud and strong opposition to the committee amendment. The minority supports the bill as amended by the Senate, which reflects a balanced and reasonable approach consistent with protections enacted in approximately two dozen other states — protecting consumers from fraud and abuse without interfering with the legitimate, lawful use of crypto ATMs by New Hampshire residents.

Majority Amendment (1526h)

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Statement of Findings. The general court finds that digital asset transaction kiosks are a legitimate financial service used by consumers to buy and sell digital assets; that the state of New Hampshire has positioned itself as a leader in the digital asset economy; and that these kiosks have been exploited by criminals to defraud consumers, particularly adults over age 60, who, according to the Federal Trade Commission, are more than 3 times as likely as younger adults to report losing money through such kiosks. It is the intent of the general court to protect vulnerable consumers from fraud while preserving a regulatory environment that supports lawful digital asset commerce in New Hampshire.

2 New Chapter; Digital Asset Transaction Kiosks. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 358-T the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 358-U

DIGITAL ASSET TRANSACTION KIOSKS

358-U:1 Statement of Purpose. It is the intent of the general court that this chapter establish reasonable and uniform consumer protections while permitting lawful and responsible digital asset transaction kiosk operations. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit an operator from adopting policies or practices that provide greater protections to consumers than the minimum standards established in this chapter.

358-U:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. “Authorized delegate” means a person or entity contractually authorized by an operator to perform identity verification or other services on behalf of the operator in connection with kiosk transactions, including a third-party identity verification service.

II. “Customer” means a natural person who initiates or completes a transaction at a kiosk.

III. “Digital asset” means a digital representation of value recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or blockchain, including cryptocurrency.

IV. “Digital asset transaction kiosk” or “kiosk” means a self-service electronic terminal located in a public or retail setting that enables a person to buy, sell, or transfer a digital asset using cash or another payment method. The term does not include a general-purpose computer, mobile application, or web-based platform.

V. “Hold period” means the period of not less than 72 hours during which an operator delays the transmission or release of digital assets for a transaction initiated by a new customer, as described in RSA 358-U:4, I(a).

VI. “New customer” means a person who is using a kiosk operated by a particular operator for the first time, or whose identity was first verified by that operator fewer than 72 hours before the transaction in question, measured from the time the operator completed its initial identity-verification procedures for that customer.

VII. “New customer period” means the 72-hour period during which a customer is a new customer as defined in paragraph VI of this section.

VIII. “Operator” means a person or entity that owns, manages, or controls one or more kiosks in this state, whether directly or through a third-party host location.

IX. “Reference price” means a contemporaneous price for the digital asset derived from a publicly accessible exchange or composite index that is verifiable by the customer.

358-U:3 Identity Verification and Operator Obligations.

I. Prior to accepting payment from a customer at a digital asset transaction kiosk, the kiosk operator, or its authorized delegate, shall verify the identity of the customer in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal laws, including the Bank Secrecy Act, 31 U.S.C. section 5311 et seq., and regulations promulgated thereunder. Notwithstanding RSA 263:12, X, an operator or its authorized delegate may scan, record, store, or retain personal information from a driver’s license or other government-issued identification for the sole purpose of verifying the customer’s identity and preventing fraud, provided that the operator complies with the data privacy requirements of RSA 358-U:4, VI and with applicable federal law.

II. An operator shall not permit a transaction to be conducted under any false, fictitious, or assumed identity.

III. Each operator performing business in this state shall maintain a dedicated communications line for government agencies, accessible via a toll-free United States telephone number or monitored electronic mail address posted at each kiosk. The operator shall respond to inquiries received through said communications line within one business day.

IV. An operator that has a reasonable basis to believe a customer is a victim of fraud or is being directed by a third party to conduct a transaction may report such activity to local law enforcement or the department of justice, consumer protection and antitrust bureau. No operator shall be subject to civil liability for making or declining to make such a report in good faith.

V. Within 90 days of commencing kiosk operations in this state, and annually thereafter, each operator shall file a written notice with the department of justice, consumer protection and antitrust bureau, stating the operator's legal name, principal business address, a contact telephone number and electronic mail address, and the number and general locations of kiosks operated in this state. No fee shall be required. Failure to file shall not, by itself, constitute a violation of this chapter but may be considered by the attorney general in determining remedies for any other violation.

358-U:4 Core Consumer Protections.

I.(a) An operator shall delay the transmission or release of digital assets for each transaction initiated by a new customer for a period of not less than 72 hours from the time the customer confirms the transaction at the kiosk, after which time the operator may complete the transaction.

(b) The total dollar value of all digital asset transactions initiated by a new customer during the new customer period shall not exceed \$3,000 in United States dollar value.

(c) During the hold period under subparagraph (a), a new customer may request cancellation of any held transaction. The operator shall refund the entire amount, including all fees, within 5 business days of receiving the request.

II. The requirements of this paragraph shall apply to all transactions, whether initiated by a new customer or an existing customer.

(a) Before accepting funds, each kiosk shall display warnings in a manner reasonably calculated to be noticed and understood by the customer, including that no government agency, law enforcement body, court, utility, bank, technology support service, employer, or retailer will ever demand payment by a kiosk or crypto ATM and that digital asset transactions are irreversible and that losses due to fraudulent or accidental transactions may not be recoverable.

(b) The kiosk shall require the customer to respond to fraud-screening prompts before the transaction may proceed, including whether the customer is being directed or coached by another person and whether the customer is the owner or intended beneficiary of the destination wallet address. Operators shall have the flexibility to update warning content and screening prompts as fraud tactics evolve, provided that any updated prompts remain consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(c) If the customer indicates that another person is directing or coaching the transaction, or that the customer is not the owner or intended beneficiary of the destination wallet address, the kiosk shall block the transaction and display contact information for local law enforcement and the department of justice, consumer protection and antitrust bureau.

(d) Each kiosk shall display a clearly visible and legible warning on its physical exterior, readable before a customer begins a transaction, stating in substance: "WARNING: No government agency, bank, or business will ever ask you to pay by crypto ATM. If someone is telling you to use this machine, it may be a scam." The warning shall be printed in a font size of no less than 28 points. The operator shall be responsible for ensuring the warning remains displayed and legible at all times the kiosk is available for use.

III.(a) Operators shall use commercially available blockchain analytics software, of a type generally accepted in the digital asset industry, to screen and block transfers to or from wallet addresses flagged for association with scams, theft, sanctions violations, or other illicit activity.

(b) Operators shall maintain written anti-fraud and consumer protection policies and shall make such policies available for inspection by the department of justice, consumer protection and antitrust bureau, or by any member of the general public, upon request. The operator shall respond within 10 business days and may provide the policies in electronic form. An operator may redact proprietary security measures whose disclosure would undermine the anti-fraud program but shall inform the requestor that redactions have been made.

IV.(a) Before accepting funds, the kiosk shall disclose on-screen the reference price for the digital asset, all applicable fees, and the spread between the operator's price and the reference price expressed as a percentage of the reference price.

V. Upon completion of a transaction, the kiosk shall provide a printed or electronic receipt, including by text message, electronic mail, or online customer portal. The receipt shall include, at a minimum:

(a) The operator's legal name.

(b) A toll-free live customer service telephone number.

- (c) The kiosk's physical location.
- (d) The date and time of the transaction.
- (e) The name and quantity of the digital asset.
- (f) The reference price at the time of the transaction.
- (g) The spread expressed as both a percentage and a dollar amount.
- (h) All fees charged.
- (i) The total amount paid by the customer.
- (j) The destination wallet address or voucher identification number.
- (k) Any applicable cancellation code.
- (l) The operator's refund or cancellation policy.

VI.(a) Operators shall limit data collection to information reasonably necessary to verify the customer's identity and to comply with applicable state and federal laws. Data collected pursuant to this chapter shall not be used for any purpose other than verifying the identity of customers and complying with applicable law.

(b) An operator shall not condition a customer's access to a kiosk on the customer's agreement to receive marketing or promotional materials.

(c) A customer shall have the right to opt out of receiving marketing or promotional materials from the operator at any time, and the operator shall honor such request within 10 business days.

(d) An operator and any authorized delegate or third party that receives or processes photographs, facial images, biometric data, or copies of government-issued identification documents on behalf of the operator shall securely destroy or delete such data within 30 days after the date of collection, unless retention for a longer period is required by applicable federal law. The operator shall ensure by contract that any authorized delegate or third party complies with this requirement.

358-U:5 Preemption. No municipality or political subdivision of this state shall enact, adopt, or enforce any ordinance, resolution, or regulation governing the operation of digital asset transaction kiosks that is more restrictive than the provisions of this chapter. Any such ordinance, resolution, or regulation in effect on the effective date of this chapter shall be unenforceable to the extent that it conflicts with this chapter.

358-U:6 Remedies.

I. Any violation of this chapter shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice within the meaning of RSA 358-A:2. Any right, remedy, or power set forth in RSA 358-A, including the investigative and enforcement authority of the attorney general, may be used to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

II. The rights, obligations, and remedies provided in this chapter shall be in addition to any other rights, obligations, or remedies provided for by law or in equity.

III. Notwithstanding RSA 358-A:10 or any other provision of law, no private right of action shall arise under this chapter, and no person shall have standing to bring a private civil action to enforce any provision of this chapter or to recover damages for an alleged violation of this chapter, whether such action is brought under this chapter, under RSA 358-A, or under any common-law or equitable theory arising from or relating to the subject matter of this chapter. Enforcement of the provisions of this chapter shall be exclusively by the attorney general pursuant to RSA 358-A.

IV. An operator that demonstrates compliance with all applicable provisions of this chapter at the time of a transaction shall not be subject to enforcement under this chapter solely because a third party defrauded the customer. The operator bears the burden of demonstrating compliance by a preponderance of the evidence.

358-U:7 Severability. If any provision of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To this end, the provisions of this chapter are severable.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 180 days after its passage.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Reps. Jared Sullivan and Bridle spoke against.

Rep. Ammon spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

On a division vote, with 135 members having voted in the affirmative, and 220 in the negative, the majority amendment failed.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Granger requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 214 - NAYS 140

YEAS - 214

BELKNAP

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Hamblen, Joseph
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita
McAleer, Chris

Crawford, Karel
Brown, Richard

Paige, David
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Murphy, Denis
Jacobs, Samantha
Newell, Jodi
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Jones, Philip
O'Rorke, Terri

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Germana, Nicholas
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Hunt, John
Nalevanko, Rich
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold

Durkin, Sean

Ouellet, Mike

Tierney, James

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Colcombe, Riché
Dargie, Paul
Fedolfi, Jim
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Murphy, Nancy
Plamondon, Marc
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Staub, Kathy
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Dupont, Pierre
Foss, Lily
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Preece, David
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Swanson, Dale
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Creighton, James
Elberger, Susan
Gagne, Larry
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Leishman, Peter
MacKenzie, Mark
Mooney, Maureen
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Tellez, Trinidad
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Lascelles, Richard
Lloyd, Christal
Manohar, Sanjeev
Morton, Jonathan
Petrigno, Peter
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Spier, Carry
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Cahill, Michael
Edgar, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Lundgren, David
Manos, Zoe
Milz, David
Raynolds, Ned
Scherr, Buzz
Dolan, Tom
Ward, Gerald

Bernardy, JD
Mannion, Dennis
Foote, Charles
Knab, Allison
Lynn, Bob
Markell, Jay
Muns, Chris
Read, Ellen
Simpson, Alexis
Turer, Eric
Weinstein, Toni

Bridle, Nicholas
de Vries, Erica
Gilman, Julie
Kuttab, Katelyn
Paige, Mark
McDonnell, Valerie
Perez, Kristine
Roy, Terry
Sorensen, Carrie
Vallone, Mark

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Grote, Jaci
Walsh, Lilli
Maggiore, Jim
Meuse, David
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sytek, John
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Howard, Heath
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
England, Myles
Harrington, Michael
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Southworth, Thomas

Burton, Wayne
Smith, Geoffrey
Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Potenza, Kelley
Stone, John

Butler, Billie
Gilmore, Gary
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Girard, Dale

Cloutier, John
Aron, Judy

Damon, Hope
Aron, Michael

Drye, Margaret
Palmer, William

NAYS - 140**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Peternel, Katy

Belcher, Mike

MacDonald, John

Smith, Jonathan

CHESHIRE

Karasinski, Sly

Mattson, Rita

Qualey, James

Thackston, Dick

COOS

Korzen, Lori

Murphy, Michael

King, Seth

Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Daniels, Gary
Flanagan, Jack
Herbert, Christopher
Long, Patrick
Noble, Kristin
Post, Lisa
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Notter, Jeanine
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Dumont, Dillon
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Pauer, Diane
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Berry, Ross
Kelley, Diane
Erf, Keith
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Peeples, Raymond
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Aures, Cyril
Cambrils, Jose
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Aylward, Deborah
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Bricchi, Tracy
Devold, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Love, David
Nadeau, Brian
Potucek, John
Soti, Julius
Tudor, Paul
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Summers, James
Verville, Kevin

Thomas, Douglas
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Layon, Erica
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

DeSimone, Debra
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Litchfield, Melissa
Melvin, Charles
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Selby, Donald
Tripp, Richard
Weyler, Kenneth

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Walker, David

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael

DeLemus, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

DeRoy, Susan
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Grant, George

Hemingway, Wayne

Smith, Steven

Spilsbury, Walter

committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

SB 528-FN, prohibiting receiving compensation for lobbying on behalf of a foreign adversary. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Carry Spier for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. As amended by the Senate, this bill would prohibit a lobbyist from receiving compensation for carrying out any lobbying activity on behalf of certain designated foreign adversaries. The list of foreign adversaries was specified in the bill, meaning the law would have to be changed to change the list. We have already seen that Venezuela has been off the list, then on the list (2020), and now with the capture of Nicolas Maduro, President Trump considers Venezuela an “ally” although formal regulations have not been fully executed. The bill further specifies that a lobbyist who is paid by a

foreign adversary that owns more than 20% of a company, would be subject to a fine of \$1000 per violation, civil penalties including investigative demands seeking documents, and other information, and injunctive relief requiring compliance going forward. A significant issue is that the Peoples Republic of China (China), prominent in the list of adversaries, is currently the third largest trade partner with the US. Chinese corporations own some important American companies including Smithfield Foods, GE Appliances, Motorola Mobility, Lexmark, Ingram Micro, a number of gaming companies, AMC Theatres, the Waldorf Astoria, several Four Seasons and Ritz-Carlton hotels, and the aircraft companies Cirrus Aircraft (Minnesota), Nexteer Automotive (Michigan), and Karma Automotive (California). The employees of all these companies are, in most cases, US citizens who deserve to be represented by lobbyists working with our legislature. The 20% cutoff is a problem. The stock of small publicly traded companies changes ownership quickly. While the ownership of stock for large publicly traded companies moves slowly, it can happen at any time. This makes the 20% threshold very blurry. A lobbyist can be within the law one day and be in violation of it the next. There is another issue. Lenovo, owner of Motorola, what used to be IBM ThinkPad, IBM's x86 server and personal computing divisions as well as a number of other technology companies worldwide, sells products to the Department of Defense (DOD). They have completed seven national security reviews by CFIUS (Committee on Foreign Investment in the US) for their various divisions and found to be completely compliant. They have been a Government Services Administration-approved vendor of products for the US Government since 2005. The US maintains a list of Chinese companies referred to as "Chinese Military Companies" or CMC. As of 2026, the US Government is banned from procuring goods, services or technology from those listed. All other Chinese companies may do business in the US and with the government after meeting security evaluations. Other states have implemented foreign entity disclosure requirements for lobbyists. Following that example, attempts were made to develop an amendment that would address some of the issues with the original bill. The list of adversaries was removed and replaced with a statement that all lobbyists for companies owned at least 20% by those controlled in other countries needed to register with the Secretary of State. The problems of stock ownership and punishments remained. An additional problem is how to understand the ownership of some types of companies. For companies traded publicly in the US, the SEC EDGAR Database can be used to find percent ownership. For privately held companies and subsidiaries determining 20% ownership is more difficult since not all companies are listed in any particular database including some commercial and third-party databases. For all these unresolved issues and conflicts with the federal government implementations, the majority of the committee has decided that Referral for Interim Study would be best so that an amendment can be developed that is straightforward to implement, does not punish lobbyists and provides the visibility into ownership that would be beneficial to the legislature. Vote 12-6.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Refer for Interim Study.
Committee report was adopted.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Germana moved that the debate on **SB 482-FN**, establishing consumer protections for digital access transaction kiosks, be printed in the Permanent Journal.
Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON SB 482

Representative Jared Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now, people in New Hampshire are being scammed out of their life savings at crypto kiosks located in stores throughout the state, and passing this amendment will do little to protect them. In 2025, Littleton, the town next to where I live, reported \$100,000 in losses. In Manchester, over \$1.5 million and statewide, granite staters lost more than \$22 million at an average of over \$40,000 per victim. So how does this scam actually work? Someone gets you on the phone, they know details about you or your family, they use fear and they tell you that a loved one is in jail and needs bail. Or they pretend to be a company like LifeLock and they claim that your identity has been compromised. They use that fear, and they tell you to go to a cryptocurrency machine to insert cash, and then it's gone forever. That is the system we're talking about. Now, proponents of this amendment will argue that stronger safeguards will hurt the crypto industry in New Hampshire, but that just doesn't pass the logical sniff test. The median transaction at these machines is around \$300 and the reason for that is because these kiosks often charge fees of around 20%. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and every member of this body to just think for a second. If you have the means to make a serious investment of, say, five or six figures in cryptocurrency, why in the world would you ever choose to accept a 20% haircut before you've even owned the asset you're trying to buy? Of course you wouldn't. Nobody would do that. That's completely illogical. You would go online where you can use a crypto online service and pay a 2% fee or less. These machines are not how serious investors participate in crypto, and that's generally not what they're being used for. There are scams that are a high percentage of the volumes here at these levels. These machines are scamming New Hampshire residents. Finally, Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, law enforcement has recovered exactly 0% of all of these losses. Think about that. What other fraud or act of crime do you get 0% recovery? There's normally

something you get. 0% of those \$22 million has been recovered. We have created a system where someone can walk into a convenience store, lose thousands of dollars in fees in minutes, and then have the rest of it stolen by an international scammer well outside the reach of American law enforcement with almost no safeguards in place. If we pass this amendment, very little will change. We will continue to see staggering losses impacting our constituents across the state. So please, join me in voting no on this amendment, and then let's pass a much better underlying Senate bill when it comes to that. Thank you.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Representative Bridle.

Representative Bridle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment. I support the underlying Senate bill. My father, the Honorable Rusty Bridle, served in this chamber for six terms. He was the chairman of the Labor Committee. He currently is enjoying retirement and is 68 years old. Every one of us in this chamber knows someone that age. Look around. Many of you are of retirement age as well. It's not a bad thing. Those who have come before us have helped to serve their communities in a good light. However, scammers out there know that New Hampshire has the second oldest population in America. Scammers are targeting our state currently. They're targeting our loved ones. They call our parents and grandparents. They call our peers and pretend to be the police. They pretend to be LifeLock. They'll say, "you're going to get arrested, you're going to lose your home." These scammers coach their victims step-by-step on how to use these crypto ATMs; just like they did with Western Union, and just like they did with gift cards. They coached them on how to be scammed. That's the whole point of it. The victim thinks they're fixing a problem; paying an overdue debt, righting a wrong. They don't realize they're being robbed until it's too late. In my town of Hampton alone, to date, \$2.6 million has been lost to scammers utilizing crypto ATMs. We have a few of them. Victims aren't making bad investments. They're just people losing their homes, and it's not just Hampton; Derry, Londonderry, Concord, Dover, Epping, Littleton, Manchester, Newfield, Litchfield, Tilton. Testimony was submitted from all these towns. It covers the entire state. The bill that came to this House from the Senate had support from New Hampshire's Attorney General's office and New Hampshire's Association of Chiefs of Police. It came with support from groups that protect seniors and advocate for them. The underlying Senate bill was a compromise. Crypto ATMs can continue to operate with reasonable safeguards and our seniors, the most vulnerable, get protection. Scammers get the message; New Hampshire isn't your target anymore. Legitimate and honest businesses should want rules that drive out criminals within their industry, that protect their customers, and this amendment doesn't do that. Right now, scammers love targeting New Hampshire citizens because we don't have any rules, limits, or safeguards for crypto ATMs. Manchester police testified in committee that they've recovered \$0 from crypto ATM fraud. Zero. Once that money goes into a machine, it's gone forever. Some will say that the Senate version bans this industry. That's not true. They're operating currently and the Senate bill continues to allow crypto ATMs to operate with reasonable protections. The Senate bill was written with input from our law enforcement officials and it gives victims two weeks to realize they've been scammed to get their money back. This amendment gives them 72 hours, then nothing. Poof. The Senate bill caps every transaction, every one, at \$2,000. That's a stopgap. This amendment caps the first transaction for three days, but after that, no limit. \$50,000, \$100,000, your entire life savings. Gone in an afternoon. But this amendment doesn't stop there. Let's discuss accountability. The Iowa Attorney General investigated these crypto ATM companies and found that 94% of transactions, 94, on their machines were fraudulent. Why does this matter? It matters because this amendment goes further by giving the same companies whose 94% of transactions that were fraudulent immunity from prosecution. They are untouchable. This level of immunity is unprecedented in the United States. Consider this. When you go to a regular bank ATM, you might have to pay, I think today it's \$2, \$3 per transaction. These crypto ATMs typically charge transaction fees of 20% to 30%; fees that the crypto ATM companies collect as profit, whether the transaction is legitimate or a scam. It doesn't matter to them. A 20% to 30% profit on transaction is worth thousands of dollars. That's a windfall. And with complete immunity from prosecution and lucrative profits, crypto ATM companies have little incentive to prevent scams and fraud at their machines. Why would they? But this amendment still doesn't stop there. At this point you might be thinking, well, we can just ban these crypto ATMs in my town. Not with this amendment you can't. Let's say your police chief sees fraud spiking on crypto ATMs in your town and he goes to local government to take action and protect their citizens. This amendment tells your local city council or board of selectmen to stand down. This amendment prohibits your town from creating localized restrictions on these machines. That means no local government in this state has the means to protect its most vulnerable citizens. Twenty-nine states have tried to enact legislation with similar overreaching provisions and not one has made it into law. Why would New Hampshire want to be the first state to codify language that enables our citizens to be financially ruined? This isn't about trusting technology. I own crypto. I've responsibly used a crypto ATM. I love technology. I even asked AI to analyze this House amendment. I was curious. I told AI, I want you to act as if NYX Crypto ATM Emporium owned a business and how would this affect me? And under this amendment all transactions are good for my business, but fraudulent transactions are great for my business. I get to keep 100% of fraudulent transactions after 72 hours. The AG can't touch me, towns can't ban me, and victims can't sue me. That's the environ-

ment this amendment creates. It makes New Hampshire more attractive to scammers and criminals and it strips accountability and removes local control. I'm asking you to join me in voting no on this amendment. If the industry can't survive without this overreaching amendment language that no other state has enacted, then maybe that tells us something about the industry. Let us now press the red button and vote down this amendment. Vote yes on the underlying Senate bill. Don't make New Hampshire the easiest place in America to rob people, especially the vulnerable folks we care about in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Packard: The Chair recognizes Representative Ammon.

Representative Ammon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard a lot of facts and figures from previous speakers, and much of it is overblown. Our position with the House Commerce Committee amendment is to also stop scams. So, I'm going to read my speech here and try to answer some of the fear and uncertainty and doubt that we've just heard. So, we heard in committee from a person called Kevin, we're going to call him Kevin to protect his identity. One afternoon, Kevin, on his computer screen, the screen turned red. It was flashing. A number appears. He calls the phone number. Over the next several hours, a scammer posing as a bank security agent walked him through withdrawing his life savings and feeding every dollar into one of these machines at two different gas stations. So Kevin testified before our committee his words, "I was basically hypnotized." And that's the thing that we're picking up on, this hypnotization by the scammers. That's what the scammers are doing. It's not the ATM companies. By the end of that day, he lost much of his savings. But there was no one there to break the spell. Right now, New Hampshire has no protections on the books for people like Kevin. This is a legal, federally regulated industry that we're talking about operating in our state. The committee amendment is designed to break the spell. That's the purpose of the committee amendment. And it doesn't require a single dollar in new appropriations. I heard the previous speaker say that the attorney general's office was in favor of the Senate version, but they also worked with me on this version. So I don't know how that fact speaks. So first it stops the harm before it happens. During the first 72 hours, a customer is considered a new customer. The customer becomes a new customer by identifying themselves at the kiosk. So they have to show an ID. A lot of them have a facial scan. So think about the data that's going into the machines currently. The Senate bill doesn't handle any of the privacy aspects. We do in the Commerce amendment. Within 72 hours, for a maximum of \$3,000, that's the cap, no life savings are going into this machine, \$3,000, the person can ask for a refund for any reason in that first 72 hours. Our friend Kevin, and I'm protecting his name, his story was he called the operator eight hours later. So eight hours is in that 72-hour window. And was asked that the refund window at the time was only 15 minutes. So we're extending that for three days. So after the 72-hour window, the machine still asks on-screen questions designed to catch coercion. Again, to break people out of the spell. The scammers are getting very sophisticated, but it's the spell that we're attacking here. So they ask, "is someone directing you to do this?" The Commerce amendment has 28-point font of a large warning required on the machine. Before you even approach the machine, there's a warning. The machines have an iPad on the front. We're requiring them to program in checks as they go through the checkout process to make sure that they're not being coerced. That's part of breaking the spell. So first is the new customer period. Second is the personal data, which I alluded to. These machines are required to collect data about their customers. We have an amendment in our state constitution that protects privacy. We put the privacy aspect into this amendment to protect people's data, their biometric data, from being stored forever, and who knows where it goes. So that's a consideration that is not in the Senate version. Third, it enforces real accountability. Operators must publish their anti-fraud policies for anyone to review. They have to publish exactly what they're doing. That informs future legislation. They must use fraud detection software to flag transfers tied to known criminal accounts. Every violation of the strict rules in the committee amendment is enforced by the Attorney General. So we hear that the bill may prevent municipalities from having their own patchwork of regulation. There's no other financial industry in the state that we let municipalities have all different rules. No industry can survive with the patchwork of rules. So the committee amendment says, if you follow these strict rules, well-thought-out rules, if you defraud someone, the Attorney General will come after you. And that's where the strength and the know-how of how to track down these bad actors. Some will argue that the Senate version is stronger because it has a permanent \$2,000 cap. But I want you to think about this. It's a cap on every transaction. Forever. That's what the Senate version does. So we have a \$3,000 cap on the 72-hour period because it's the naive new customer. That's who these scammers are putting into a spell. So Vermont tried to do this. And we already know what happened. They drove the industry out of the state. And I think that's the intent of some of these inflated numbers that we hear. Inflating all crypto with just the kiosks. That's what those numbers are telling us. I think the intent is to ban this industry. In New Hampshire, do we ban industries? Or do we make sure that only good actors are behaving in that industry? That's what we're trying to do with the Commerce amendment. So our friend Kevin cannot get his life savings back. But the next person sitting at their computer, when the screen goes red, tells them to call a number to get on the phone to be hypnotized in that spell. The committee amendment from House Commerce is designed to break the spell but not destroy an industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I ask for a division vote.

Speaker Packard: A division has been requested. Members, take your seats. Will the member yield to a question?

Representative Ammon: Yes, I will.

Speaker Packard: Member yields. You may inquire.

Representative Proulx: Thank you. You talk about a few questions breaking the spell. And I don't think that'll work. And I'll give you an example, and then you can tell me why you think your questions will work. In the town of Epping, where I work, a woman had a stack of \$100 bills, stuffing them into the machine. The owner of the business called the police. The police came, took her back to the bank to put her money back in, tried to explain this is a scam. She went back the next day, took all the money out, and put it back in the crypto machine. So three questions on a machine isn't going to save them from fraud. And if you can tell me what those questions are going to do and how they're going to break that spell when the police officer took her back to the bank.

Representative Ammon: I'll just respond briefly. I'm glad that you brought up that scenario because that exact scenario is what the committee amendment is designed to protect. So thank you.

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is Ought to Pass on the amendment. We're voting on the amendment only right now. This is a division vote. Members, take your seats. Make sure you turn your voting stations on. The motion before us is on the amendment (1526h.) This is a division vote. The Chair recognizes Representative Bill Boyd for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Bill Boyd: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, if I know that this amendment fundamentally rewrites Senate Bill 482 and eliminates consumer protections while undermining local control, and Mr. Speaker, if I know that the underlying bill is a sensible bipartisan solution that discourages criminal activity while preventing catastrophic financial loss for all granted staters, then, Mr. Speaker, would I press the red button and vote no on the pending motion? Thank you.

Speaker Packard: Chair recognizes Representative Hunt for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Hunt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that it's very rare that you will ever see me down here, if I know that's because the Commerce Committee takes its responsibilities very seriously, if I know, Mr. Speaker, that this bill had a serious, serious problem, and that is the 14 days and the right of private action to sue not the scammer, but to sue the machine. Mr. Speaker, I think you would laugh us out of the room if we said maybe we should be banning the computer where that person got scammed, or maybe we should be banning the phone. Mr. Speaker, if I believe that maybe we should be banning this telephone or maybe the caller ID that got fraudulently used. Mr. Speaker, if I believe that the Commerce Committee came up with a better solution with the 72 hours, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to pass legislation that will be mirrored in lawsuits because this 14 days. Will I now vote yes on this amendment?

Speaker Packard: The motion before us is the amendment (1526h). This is a division vote. If you're in favor, you'll press the green button. If you're opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present and an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 135 voting yea, 220 voting nay. The amendment fails. House will be in order. The motion before us now is Ought to Pass. A division has been requested. A roll call has been asked. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. The motion before us is Ought to Pass on Senate Bill 482. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, you'll press the green button. If you're opposed, you'll press the red button. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present and an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 214 voting yea, 140 voting nay. The motion passes. It's being referred to Criminal Justice.

CACR 11, (New Title) relating to sheriffs. Providing that there shall be no age limitation for a person to hold the office of county sheriff. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The majority believes the choice to not recommend should be based on overwhelming evidence that not only is it not needed, but that it would be detrimental to society and our form of government. This is necessary because our choice to not recommend denies the citizens the opportunity to decide for themselves whether or not they think the amendment is warranted. The majority saw no such evidence in this case. The citizens of this state, along with the country are living longer more productive lives. The constitutional limit of age 70 for sheriffs was made in 1792. In the late 18th century, the average lifespan at birth for a man in New England was roughly 35 to 45 years. Removing deaths from infant mortality and childhood disease, once a man reached adulthood, he could reasonably expect to live into his early to mid-60s. Setting a mandatory retirement age at 70 in 1792 was actually quite generous. It was a limit most men would never hit. Modern medicine and nutrition has changed that expectation quite a bit in the last 234 years. For a man who reaches age 65 today, he is statistically expected to live another 18 to 20 years, frequently pushing him well into his mid-80s. This raises two questions. What good is it extending our lives if we continue treat the age limitations in our laws the same as we did 234 years ago? Next, we must consider can a man or woman in their 70s in 2026 perform the role of sheriff as it exists today? In 1792, there were no municipal police departments or state police.

If you were a citizen in New Hampshire in the late 1700s, the sheriff and his deputies were the only professional law enforcement officers available. They were the general purpose “peace officers” for everything from stopping riots to investigating thefts. Now most daily patrol and investigative work is handled by local police or state police, with sheriffs augmenting both when necessary. Modern NH sheriffs primarily focus on court security, prisoner transport, and serving civil legal papers. Though they still perform important law enforcement duties, the sheriff is not involved in it anymore than the police chief in one of our large municipalities and police chiefs have no such age restriction. Putting an age limit was a way of limiting the office holder as the public did not have the same say in their getting the job as we do today. Vote 7-5. Rep. David Meuse for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Article 78 of the New Hampshire State Constitution states that “No person shall hold the office of Judge of any Court, or Judge of Probate, or Sheriff of any county, after he has attained the age of seventy years.” This CACR would erase the maximum age restriction for county sheriffs, allowing sheriffs to begin or to continue serving into their seventies and potentially well beyond that into their eighties and nineties. While we heard testimony that the role of a sheriff is primarily administrative and is analogous to that of a CEO in a private business, there are a number of concerns with extending the age limit. Physical and mental vigor, which both decline with age, are critical for such a high-stress role. But even more importantly, sheriffs are also occasionally called upon to act in a direct law enforcement capacity, such as making an arrest or assisting with one, rather than simply performing administrative functions. By comparison, the mandatory retirement age for our state police is set at age 60. Many corporations also set mandatory retirement ages for CEOs and board members. While age should never be a barrier to serving your community, mandatory retirement ages provide opportunities for qualified younger people to step up. Moreover, they don’t preclude those impacted by them from serving their community in other ways.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Roy spoke in favor.

Rep. Meuse spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 199 - NAYS 157

YEAS - 199

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bordes, Mike
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Brown, Richard

Boudman, Bobbi
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

Crawford, Karel
McAleer, Chris

Hamblen, Joseph
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Germana, Nicholas
Thackston, Dick

Hunt, John
Nalevanko, Rich

Karasinski, Sly
Qualey, James

Mattson, Rita
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean

Korzen, Lori

Murphy, Michael

GRAFTON

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

Franz, Linda

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Juris, Louis
Lascelles, Richard
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Ryan, Linda
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Leishman, Peter
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Long, Patrick
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wheeler, Jonah

Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Labrie, Brian
Murray, Megan
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian

Aylward, Deborah
McGuire, Dan
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

Bricchi, Tracy
Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Hicks, Matthew
Moffett, Michael
Schamberg, Thomas
Wood, Clayton

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeSimone, Debra
Edgar, Michael
Gilman, Julie
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Edwards, Jess
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Foote, Charles
Guzowski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Maggiore, Jim
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
de Vries, Erica
Dunn, Ron
Ford, Mary
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Markell, Jay
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Horrigan, Timothy
Hall, Robley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Gilmore, Gary
Kaczynski, Thomas
Southworth, Thomas

DeLemus, Susan
Granger, Michael
Larochelle, John
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

SULLIVAN

Cloutier, John
Hemingway, Wayne

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Smith, Steven

**NAYS - 157
BELKNAP**

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Belcher, Mike

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Weber, Lucy

COOS

King, Seth

Tierney, James

Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

Baldwin, Heather
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

Barton, Joseph
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Corcoran, Travis
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel

Alexander, Joe
Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxy, Loren
Howard, Molly
McLean, Mark
Preece, David
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Leapley, Nicole
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Prout, Andrew
Rung, Rosemarie
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wilhelm, Matthew

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
See, Alvin
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Knab, Allison
Meuse, David
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Paige, Mark
Milz, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Grote, Jaci
Manos, Zoe
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Haskins, Linda
McDonnell, Valerie
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Butler, Billie
Johnson, Erik
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

Spillsbury, Walter

and the motion of Ought to Pass failed lacking the necessary three-fifths vote.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Roy, Chairman of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **SB 482-FN**, establishing consumer protections for digital access transaction kiosks.

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

SB 460-FN, relative to the offense of loitering or prowling. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Terry Roy for the **Majority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This legislation establishes “child safety zones” to protect New Hampshire’s most vulnerable citizens by prohibiting high-risk registered sex offenders from being present in areas where children congregate. The amendment narrows the original bill and limits this restriction to only tier III offenders, the highest risk category, specifically those whose underlying offense could have involved a felonious sexual attack on a victim under 18 years of age and are deemed most likely to re-offend. Under this act, such individuals are prohibited from knowingly being within 500 feet, a decrease from the 1000 feet in the original bill, of a school, child care facility, public park, playground, pool, or active school bus stop. The original bill sought to use the loitering statute to solve a problem that it was not designed for, and thus caused significant constitutional concerns. The amended bill puts the solution in the sex offender laws where it belongs. It removes every one of the constitutional concerns raised by the ACLU and the minority. It specifically provides affirmative defenses for constitutionally protected acts and transporting their own children. Some now seek to move the goal posts. When an offender registers, they would be notified in writing of the specific restrictions related to their offender level category. This removes the vagueness concerns about who it applied to and the exact behavior that would constitute a crime. Tier III sex offenders would sign a form acknowledging their notification and understanding. If they are found by law enforcement to be in violation of their restrictions, a felony level offense, they can be immediately arrested and removed from the child safety zone. As noted, the original bill sought to use the loitering statute to address the potential predatory stalking of children by sex offenders. The only penalty available under the loitering law is a violation, which is one of the flaws of trying to use that statute to address this conduct. The majority believes a violation, which carries a small fine, is not a serious way to address a person required to register as a tier III sex offender, ignoring a law requiring them to stay away from children, especially after having been clearly warned of the conditions and consequences. With the limited availability of childcare facilities in New Hampshire, parents expect us to ensure their children are as safe as possible while they are there and they should not have to worry that their children are being targeted for abuse by a known predator. This applies to playgrounds, bus stops, and public pools as well. We must allow our children to be children by safely enjoying the outdoors and getting off their computers and social media. A place incidentally, where they are also frequently targeted by sex offenders. We must take these offenses seriously. The restrictions should be on those who harm our children and not the children themselves. We must place the liberty of our children before that of those who chose to sacrifice their own liberty by harming our children. Vote 9-4.

Rep. Buzz Scherr for the **Minority** of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This bill as amended moves the substance of a flawed loitering/prowling bill to the sexual offender statute. It still contains language that is

constitutionally flawed, which renders it needlessly broad in its scope. It compounds that over-breadth by raising the penalty from that for a violation in the original bill to a class B felony. The minority amendment attends to these and other flaws in a narrowly tailored version of the original bill.

Majority Amendment (1286h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT prohibiting tier III criminal offenders from being present in designated child safety zones absent a legitimate purpose.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Section; Registration of Criminal Offenders; Child Safety Zones. Amend RSA 651-B by inserting after section 12 the following new section:

651-B:13 Child Safety Zones; Prohibited Presence.

I. No person who is required to register as a tier III offender under this chapter, as a result of an offense where the victim was under 18 years of age, shall knowingly go in, on, or within 500 feet of a child safety zone.

II. Distance shall be measured in a straight line from the outer property boundary of the child safety zone to the person.

III. In this section, "child safety zone" means the premises of any of the following:

(a) A public or private elementary or secondary school.

(b) A licensed child care facility or day care center.

(c) A public park, playground, or public swimming pool.

(d) A designated school bus stop currently in use by a school district.

IV. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution if the person was within the child safety zone for a legitimate purpose, including:

(a) Transporting their own legal child to or from the facility.

(b) Participating in a constitutionally protected activity, such as voting.

(c) Direct travel to or from their place of residence, or place of employment, if such was established prior to the effective date of this section.

V. Evidence that the person has received written notice of these prohibitions during registration, or that the zone was marked with signage or otherwise open and obvious, shall be prima facie evidence that the person acted knowingly.

VI. A violation of this section is a class B felony.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-1286h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes it a class B felony for tier III registered offenders to be present in certain designated child safety zones, and makes it an affirmative defense that the offender was there for a legitimate purpose.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Rep. Scherr spoke against and yielded to questions.

Rep. Roy spoke in favor and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 225 - NAYS 128

YEAS - 225

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Nagel, David

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Ploszaj, Tom

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Terry, Paul

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Boudman, Bobbi
Smith, Jonathan
Woodcock, Stephen

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Hunt, John
Nalevanko, Rich

Jacobs, Samantha
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda
Oppel, Thomas

Beaulier, Calvin
Sullivan, Jared

Berezhny, Lex
Ladd, Rick

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Louis, Darrell

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Giasson, Henry
Kesselring, Steven
Lascelles, Richard
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Thomas, Wendy

Alexander, Joe
Beauchemin, Paige
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wheeler, Jonah

Ammon, Keith
Berry, Ross
Cornell, Patricia
Darby, Will
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Gregg, Alicia
Kofalt, Jim
Long, Patrick
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rombeau, Catherine
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

Boyd, Bill
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Labrie, Brian
Murray, Megan
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Colby, Eleana
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Hall, Muriel
Boyd, Stephen
Soucy, Timothy

McGuire, Carol
Hicks, Matthew
Mehegan, Peter
Schamberg, Thomas
Walsh, Thomas

Cambrils, Jose
Hill, Gregory
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bridle, Nicholas
de Vries, Erica
Dunn, Ron
Gilman, Julie
Janigian, John
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Maggiore, Jim
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Manos, Zoe
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Pearson, Stephen
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Vose, Michael

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Harb, Robert
Knab, Allison
Litchfield, Melissa
Paige, Mark
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Read, Ellen
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Turer, Eric
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Burnham, Claudine
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas
Hall, Robley

Butler, Billie
Farrington, Samuel
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Malone, Amy
Wade, Alice

DeLemus, Susan
Johnson, Erik
Potenza, Kelley
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George

Hemingway, Wayne

NAYS - 128**CARROLL**

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Harvey, Cathryn
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 McFarlane, Donald
 Stringham, Jerry

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Sykes, George

Cormen, Thomas
 Lovett, Peter
 Rockmore, Ellen

HILLSBOROUGH

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Davis, Fred
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Preece, David
 Ryan, Linda
 Spier, Carry
 Vail, Suzanne

Booras, Efstathia
 Corcoran, Travis
 Foss, Lily
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 Lloyd, Christal
 McGhee, Kat
 Prout, Andrew
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Veilleux, Daniel

Budathoki, Suraj
 Dargie, Paul
 Grill, Jessica
 Jack, Martin
 Foss, Loren
 Howard, Molly
 Petrigno, Peter
 Newman, Ray
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Dolan, William

Chourasia, Manoj
 Elberger, Susan
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jeudy, Jean
 Leapley, Nicole
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Plamondon, Marc
 Raymond, Heather
 Seibert, Christine
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 Kelly, Eileen
 Lane, Connie
 Polozov, Yury
 Snodgrass, Jim

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Luneau, David
 Richards, Beth
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Caplan, Tony
 Gallager, Eric
 Newsom, James
 Roesener, James
 Woods, Gary

McGuire, Dan
 Gibbs, Merryl
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Sargent, Gregory

ROCKINGHAM

Cahill, Michael
 Meuse, David
 Simpson, Alexis

Edgar, Michael
 Muns, Chris
 Sorensen, Carrie

Grote, Jaci
 Reynolds, Ned
 Ward, Gerald

Haskins, Linda
 Scherr, Buzz
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
 England, Myles
 Harrington, Michael
 Smith, Marjorie
 Stone, John

Bay, Luz
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Miller, Seth
 Wall, Janet

Bixby, Peter
 Gilmore, Gary
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Schmidt, Peter

Burton, Wayne
 Howard, Heath
 Larochelle, John
 Southworth, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Spillsbury, Walter

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. McFarlane moved that **SB 460-FN**, prohibiting tier III criminal offenders from being present in designated child safety zones absent a legitimate purpose, be laid on the table.

Rep. Potenza requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 146 - NAYS 207

**YEAS - 146
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
 Faulkner, Barry
 Germana, Nicholas
 Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
 Gruber, James
 Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
 Jacobs, Samantha
 O'Rourke, Terri

Fox, Dru
 Jones, Philip
 Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lovett, Peter
 Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

Barton, Joseph
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 McFarlane, Donald
 Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Muirhead, Russell
 Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Darby, Will
Davis, Fred
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Preece, David
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Dargie, Paul
Foss, Lily
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Prout, Andrew
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Corcoran, Travis
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Murray, Megan
Petrigno, Peter
Newman, Ray
Seibert, Christine
Tellez, Trinidad
Warden, Mark

Budathoki, Suraj
Cornell, Patricia
Erf, Keith
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Plamondon, Marc
Raymond, Heather
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Colby, Eleana
Gallager, Eric
Hall, Muriel
Snodgrass, Jim

Bricchi, Tracy
McGuire, Dan
Gibbs, Merryl
Payeur, Stephanie
Wallner, Mary Jane

McGuire, Carol
Kelly, Eileen
Lane, Connie
Polozov, Yury

Caplan, Tony
Ebel, Karen
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Grote, Jaci
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Haskins, Linda
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Gilman, Julie
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
England, Myles
Horrigan, Timothy
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Spilsbury, Walter

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

NAYS - 207**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Boudman, Bobbi
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Pernel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Beaulier, Calvin
Franz, Linda

Berezhny, Lex
Ladd, Rick

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
Louis, Darrell

Bolton, Bill
Oppel, Thomas

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Giasson, Henry

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Gould, Linda

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Hartnett, Tim

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Daniels, Gary
Fedolfi, Jim
Georges, Mary
Kesselring, Steven

Kofalt, Jim
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Ryan, Linda
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Labrie, Brian
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Thomas, Wendy

Lascelles, Richard
McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rombeau, Catherine
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wheeler, Jonah

Leishman, Peter
Miles, Julie
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Rung, Rosemarie
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
Hicks, Matthew
Moffett, Michael
Boyd, Stephen
See, Alvin
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Soucy, Timothy
Woods, Gary

Cambriels, Jose
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Schamberg, Thomas
Walsh, Thomas

Devoid, Ricky
Mehegan, Peter
Roesener, James
Seaworth, Brian
Thibault, James

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Paige, Mark
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Pearson, Stephen
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
Maggiore, Jim
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Sytek, John
Vallone, Mark
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bridle, Nicholas
de Vries, Erica
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Roy, Terry
Summers, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

STRAFFORD

Burnham, Claudine
DeRoy, Susan
Johnson, Erik
Selig, Loren

Butler, Billie
Farrington, Samuel
Kaczynski, Thomas
Wade, Alice

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley
Walker, David

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Hall, Robley

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George

Hemingway, Wayne

and the motion failed.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Majority committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to third reading.

SB 586-FN, requiring school districts to publish a school administrative unit audit report after the end of the fiscal year. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Dan McGuire for the **Majority** of Education Funding. Currently, RSA 198:4-d requires school districts and charter schools to annually produce various financial reports, including audited financial statements. This bill specifies some extra contents for those statements, including information about personnel and salaries, capital projects, etc. It also adds requirements that the statements be produced in a timely manner, has the Department of Education verify that they are complete, and if incomplete after a grace period, the department will withhold state funds. The committee's amendment rewrites the bill so that the new policy doesn't interfere with other reporting needed to set property tax rates. It also requires school administrative units to submit audited financials, changes the timeline to be more compatible with the school accounting process, prevents adequacy aid from being withheld, and makes sure reports are publicly accessible. When financial irregularities occur, they must be exposed before they can be fixed. This bill, as amended, ensures financial problems will not be overlooked. Vote 9-8.

Rep. Hope Damon for the **Minority** of Education Funding. The minority finds the process for reviewing and amending this bill has been rushed and was not complete. We support the committee amendment 2026-1500h as it addressed some of our concerns and improved the bill. However, despite considerable discussion of the meaning of "non-compliant" and of "deficiencies" in the context of the bill, the language does not include necessary clarifying definitions. The Department of Education (DOE) requested to have a work session with the

committee to address issues raised by the Bureau of School Finance but that has not happened. DOE requested to discuss considerations of what realistic audit policy could be adhered to by the field (there are very few public accounting firms in NH) and to address the need for resources at DOE to implement this legislation which has no appropriation ask to accompany the fiscal note. Very significantly, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education to impose mandatory withholding of fiscal capacity and extraordinary needs funds from high need districts regardless of the seriousness or fiscal relevance of the particular point of non-compliance with the proposed audit requirements. This is an unnecessarily punitive approach that does not help districts implement effective fiscal policies and procedures. The minority believes the Commissioner of Education should have some discretion in applying financial penalties. Finally, there may be contradiction with other statutory law relative to auditing practices that relate to public schools – it is critical that new legislation align with or update existing statutes.

Majority Amendment (1500h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT requiring chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and requiring the results of such audits to be made available to the public.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Education; District Taxes; Reports Required; Cities, School Districts, and School Administrative Units. RSA 198:4-d is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

198:4-d Reports Required; Cities, School Districts, and School Administrative Units. The governing body of each city, school district, chartered public school, and school administrative unit shall submit to the commissioner of the department of education in a searchable electronic format the following reports pursuant to rules adopted under RSA 541-A by the commissioner of revenue administration which establish the form and content of such reports:

I. A report filed by the governing body of each city, school district, and chartered public school shall certify the appropriations voted by the meeting of the appropriate legislative body, whether city council, mayor and council, or mayor and board of aldermen, or by each annual or special school district meeting, along with estimated revenues. This report shall be filed within 20 days of the close of the meeting.

II. A report filed by the governing body of each city, school district, and chartered public school shall revise all the estimated revenues for the year. This report shall be filed by September 1 of each year. The revised estimates by school districts for the adequate education grants calculated under RSA 198:41 shall be considered the most accurate within 5 percent of the amount estimated pursuant to RSA 198:40-a.

III. A financial report for each city, school district, and chartered public school shall be filed showing the summary of receipts and expenditures, according to uniform classifications, during the preceding fiscal year, and a balance sheet showing assets and liabilities at the close of the year. This report shall be submitted on or before September 1 of each year. Each statistical report submitted under this section shall include a certification signed by the chairperson of the school district's governing body or the chairperson of the board of trustees of approved public academies that states: "I certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that all of the information contained in this document is true, accurate and complete."

IV. The department of education and the department of revenue administration together shall develop and maintain school accounting standards which shall be used by districts, chartered public schools, and school administrative units for financial reporting purposes.

V. The budget committee in school districts operating under the municipal budget law shall file the budget within 20 days of the close of the annual or special meeting.

VI. Chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5, shall be audited by an independent public accountant in accordance with RSA 21-J:19, II.

VII. If a city or school district is audited under RSA 671:5, the procedures in RSA 41:31-a through 41:31-d shall be followed.

VIII. Audit reports created under paragraphs VI and VII shall include balance sheets; a breakdown of revenue sources; an itemized list of all employees or staff on payroll and their pay, benefits, other post-employment benefits and pension liabilities; an itemized list of assets, debts, bonds, lease agreements, and capital improvement investment projects. The audit report for the last completed fiscal year shall be submitted to the department within 9 months of the end of the fiscal year. The commissioner of the department of education shall verify that the report appears complete within 3 months of receipt, comparing it against those submitted in prior years. The department may grant extensions as needed to address any disputed items. Deficiencies shall be corrected no later than 12 months from the date of the submission. The commissioner shall withhold state grant funding, not including RSA 198:40-a funding, allocated to any non-compliant city, school district, chartered public school, or school administrative unit until the audit or financial report is completed and submitted to the department, and any questions are answered to the commissioner's satisfaction.

IX. The department of education and reporting entities shall make reports filed under this section available to the public on their websites in a searchable electronic format.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

2026-1500h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and for the results of such audits to be made available to the public.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

Rep. Luneau offered floor amendment (1625h).

Floor Amendment (1625h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT requiring chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and requiring the results of such audits to be made available to the public.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Education; District Taxes; Reports Required; Cities, School Districts, and School Administrative Units. RSA 198:4-d is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

198:4-d Reports Required; Cities, School Districts, and School Administrative Units. The governing body of each city, school district, chartered public school, and school administrative unit shall submit to the commissioner of the department of education in a searchable electronic format the following reports pursuant to rules adopted under RSA 541-A by the commissioner of revenue administration, which establish the form and content of such reports:

I. A report filed by the governing body of each city, school district, and chartered public school shall certify the appropriations voted by the meeting of the appropriate legislative body, whether city council, mayor and council, or mayor and board of aldermen, or by each annual or special school district meeting, along with estimated revenues. This report shall be filed within 20 days of the close of the meeting.

II. A report filed by the governing body of each city, school district, and chartered public school shall revise all the estimated revenues for the year. This report shall be filed by September 1 of each year. The revised estimates by school districts for the adequate education grants calculated under RSA 198:41 shall be considered the most accurate within 5 percent of the amount estimated pursuant to RSA 198:40-a.

III. A financial report for each city, school district, and chartered public school shall be filed showing the summary of receipts and expenditures, according to uniform classifications, during the preceding fiscal year, and a balance sheet showing assets and liabilities at the close of the year. This report shall be submitted on or before September 1 of each year. Each statistical report submitted under this section shall include a certification signed by the chairperson of the school district's governing body or the chairperson of the board of trustees of approved public academies that states: "I certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that all of the information contained in this document is true, accurate, and complete."

IV. The department of education and the department of revenue administration together shall develop and maintain school accounting standards, which shall be used by districts, chartered public schools, and school administrative units for financial reporting purposes.

V. The budget committee in school districts operating under the municipal budget law shall file the budget within 20 days of the close of the annual or special meeting.

VI. Chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 shall be audited by an independent public accountant in accordance with RSA 21-J:19, II.

VII. If a city or school district is audited under RSA 671:5, the procedures in RSA 41:31-a through 41:31-d shall be followed.

VIII. Audit reports created under paragraphs VI and VII shall include balance sheets; a breakdown of revenue sources; an itemized list of all employees or staff on payroll and their pay, benefits, other post-employment benefits and pension liabilities; an itemized list of assets, debts, bonds, lease agreements, and capital improvement investment projects. The audit report for the last completed fiscal year shall be submitted to the department within 9 months of the end of the fiscal year. The commissioner of the department of education shall verify that the report appears complete within 3 months of receipt, comparing it against those submitted in prior years. The department may grant extensions as needed to address any disputed items. Deficiencies shall be corrected no later than 12 months from the date of the submission. The commissioner may withhold state grant funding, not including RSA 198:40-a funding, allocated to any non-compliant city, school district, chartered public school, or school administrative unit until the audit or financial report is completed and

submitted to the department, and any questions are answered to the commissioner's satisfaction, provided that any state grant funding so withheld shall be limited at all times to such amount as is necessary in the judgment of the commissioner to protect the public interest and the ongoing lawful operational needs of the non-compliant entity, and provided further that the commissioner shall release a detailed public statement identifying the reason or reasons for each such withholding.

IX. The department of education and reporting entities shall make reports filed under this section available to the public on their websites in a searchable electronic format.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

2026-1625h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and for the results of such audits to be made available to the public.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1625h).

Rep. Damon spoke in favor.

Rep. Ladd spoke against.

Rep. Sweeney requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 162 - NAYS 193

YEAS - 162 BELKNAP

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alistandra
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Judy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Davis, Fred
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
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Howard, Heath
Larochelle, John
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Stone, John

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Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

NAYS - 193

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

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Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Tenczar, Jeffrey

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Cambrils, Jose
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
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Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Foote, Charles
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine

Bennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel

Bernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan

Bridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John

Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Sytek, John
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

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DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Spilsbury, Walter

Hemingway, Wayne

and the amendment failed.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Rep. Luneau spoke against.

Rep. Dan McGuire spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 195 members having voted in the affirmative, and 160 in the negative, the motion was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

SB 101-FN, (New Title) authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state and creating a limited exemption from parental consent required for certain recordings under the parental bill of rights. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for the **Majority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, institutes a state-wide, comprehensive policy for public school choice via open enrollment across district boundaries that balances significant local control with the necessary prohibitions on districts vetoing students and families who desire to leave to pursue education elsewhere. Each school would be required to provide notice of its capacity to accept open enrollment pupils and would require selection by lottery in the event applications exceed capacity. The bill also establishes a funding formula for payments by the Department of Education from the Education Trust Fund for open enrollment pupils, leaving local money with the resident district. This voluntary program retains all existing local options for parents and students, including special education and transportation. The program enables the potential receiving district wide latitude in determining their reasonable capacity, without the addition of staff, to accept students or not. However, the incentives generated by this structure favor the likelihood of more schools opening up and being willing to receive some students when the blockade of localities preventing students from leaving is broken down. The majority of the committee believes that public school open enrollment will bring substantial benefits to New Hampshire students, families, and communities. This policy has the potential to modernize the state's educational framework, enhance parental choice, and improve educational outcomes by providing more opportunities for students to access high-quality education. By breaking down the geographic restrictions that limit choice and ensuring adequate safeguards for local control, this bill sets a path toward a more dynamic and equitable educational system in New Hampshire. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Peggy Balboni for the **Minority** of Education Policy and Administration. This bill would require statewide open enrollment, allowing parents to send their children to public schools outside their home districts. While framed as expanding choice, in practice it would benefit only those families able to provide transportation, limiting access for many others. The committee heard nearly ten hours of testimony over two days, with the overwhelming majority opposed. Additionally, over 2,000 more residents registered their opposition on-line. Significant concerns remain unresolved, including issues of equity, funding, special education services, and how districts would determine capacity. Clearly, many constituents are not calling for the state to override local control with this mandate. The minority strongly feels it is premature to advance a major overhaul of our public school system without clear, workable solutions to ensure fairness and equity for every student. The minority amendment proposes establishing a commission of legislators and experienced stakeholders to develop a comprehensive, thoughtful policy—one that clearly defines responsibilities, addresses budget and funding obligations, sets consistent standards for capacity, and creates a fair, transparent process for student enrollment and selection. This commission would lay the groundwork for future legislation, ensuring any open enrollment policy is practical, equitable, and truly serves students, families, and school districts.

Majority Amendment (1451h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Open Enrollment. RSA 194-D is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 194-D
OPEN ENROLLMENT SCHOOLS

194-D:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

I. "Capacity" means the number of pupil seats available for any grade, program, or technical education program in a public school without the addition of staff. Capacity shall be determined by the governing body of the school district and need not equal the maximum number of pupils otherwise allowed by law.

II. "Open enrollment school" means any district public school that provides educational services to pupils outside its district.

III. "Open enrollment pupil" means any pupil who attends a school outside of their resident school district pursuant to the terms of this statute.

IV. "Parent" means a parent, guardian, or other person or entity having legal custody of a child or, in the case of a child with a disability, a surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with state or federal law.

V. "Pupil" means any child who is eligible for attendance in public schools in New Hampshire in kindergarten through grade 12 who is a resident of this state.

VI. "Receiving district" means a district receiving pupils from outside of the school district.

VII. "Receiving school" means a district public school receiving pupils from another school district under this statute.

VIII. "Resident district" means the school district in which the pupil resides.

IX. "School board" means the school district school board.

X. "State board" means the state board of education.

194-D:2 Establishment; Parental Choice; Admission.

I. Each district governing body shall establish an open enrollment policy to allow pupils to transfer among schools within the district and from another district in the state, or from any state that has an interstate compact with New Hampshire that does not require nonresident pupils to pay an application fee or tuition.

II. The governing body of each school district shall determine the capacity of each school in the district, including the capacity of each grade level, career and technical education program, and other academic program with enrollment limitations.

III. The governing body shall develop an open enrollment policy to determine what number of the total capacity of any grade level or career, and technical education program shall be allotted for open enrollment pupils.

IV. The district shall publish on its website the total capacity, under paragraph II, and the number of available allocated open enrollments spots, under paragraph III, that are available for each school, grade level, career and technical education program, and other academic program with enrollment limitations on or before July 1 and December 15 of each year.

V. Each school district in the state shall report annually to the department of education the number of applications, acceptances, and denials, and the reason for each denial. The department of education shall publish the data annually on its website and provide reports to the senate and house education committees, and the state board of education.

VI. A parent may apply to any public school within the state on behalf of a pupil.

VII. Applications may be made on behalf of eligible pupils to more than one school or program with available capacity.

VIII. Every school shall make information about its curriculum and policies available on its website.

IX. There shall be no application fee for pupil admission to any public school.

X. Applications for open enrollment may be denied only for the following reasons:

(a) The pupil was expelled by the pupil's previous district;

(b) The pupil has a documented history of significant disciplinary issues that are not documented as part of an identified disability;

(c) The pupil has a documented history of chronic absenteeism that is not documented through a section 504 plan or IEP, through McKinney Vento status, or due to Foster Care, or as a result of bullying;

(d) The school, grade level, program, or class has reached the allotted capacity set for open enrollment pupils by the school district's governing body pursuant to paragraph III; or

(e) The pupil does not satisfy the prerequisite requirements for the program.

XI. No receiving school shall accept or reject an applicant based on pupil needs, special education needs, disability of a pupil, aptitude, or athletic achievement.

XII. School boards may adopt application procedures and deadlines for applications for enrollment; provided that:

(a) Applications for enrollment shall be open at least twice per academic year.

(b) If the number of applicants for enrollment exceeds capacity as established under paragraph III, enrollment shall be determined by a random selection lottery that provides equal opportunity for admissions.

(c) The lottery shall be conducted in a fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school board from adopting a policy that establishes preferences in the lottery for:

- (1) Siblings of currently enrolled pupils;
- (2) Children of school employees;
- (3) Pupils residing within a defined geographical boundary; and/or

(4) A student residing in New Hampshire with one or more parent or guardian who is on active military duty, regardless of the physical location or place of residence of the active-duty parent or guardian.

(e) Any preferences established by a district's open enrollment policy shall be published with the application, prior to the start of the application period.

XIII. An open enrollment pupil shall maintain continuous enrollment in the receiving school without requirement of reapplication, except in cases of expulsion.

XIV. School board policies shall provide an admission preference prioritizing open enrollment pupils matriculating with the same cohort.

XV. For the purposes of open enrollment pupil, neither the resident nor the receiving school district shall be obligated to provide transportation services for pupils attending a school outside the pupil's resident district. A parent may provide transportation to a bus stop on an existing route, unless otherwise determined by an IEP or Section 504 Plan, as determined by the receiving school district. The receiving district shall provide the parents with information regarding transportation options.

XVI. A pupil may withdraw from an open enrollment school at any time and enroll in a public school where the pupil resides, except that no pupil shall change schools more than once per academic year. The school board of the pupil's resident district may waive this limitation after a hearing.

194-D:3 Funding.

I.(a) There shall be no tuition charge for any pupil attending an open enrollment school.

(b) For each open enrollment pupil, the department of education shall pay aid amounts pursuant to RSA 198:40-a, II(a)-(c) plus the additional grant pursuant to RSA 194-B:11, I(b)(1)(A) to all open enrollment public schools according to the average daily membership in attendance pursuant to RSA 198:38, I(a). The department shall adjust the rates specified in this subparagraph in accordance with RSA 198:40-d.

II.(a) Districts with an existing tuition agreement shall follow the terms of any existing and active tuition agreement as applicable between both parties. Notwithstanding any provision herein, nothing in this statute shall relieve a district from providing at least one education option that does not require additional tuition payment from the parent. A district not operating a school, serving any grade from kindergarten through grade 12, shall maintain an active tuition agreement that has been approved by the school board to provide pupils with the opportunity to acquire an adequate education as defined in RSA 193-E:2.

(b) Districts receiving an open enrollment pupil from a resident district that already has a tuition agreement with the receiving open enrollment school shall not receive an open enrollment aid amount. The resident district shall follow their tuition agreement and shall receive the adequacy aid amount as calculated and distributed pursuant to RSA 198:42, III. Open enrollment public schools shall report to the department of education the number of open enrollment pupils attending each school.

(c) Any district where the number of pupils residing in the district and calculated towards the open enrollment grant pursuant to paragraph I exceeds the number of resident district pupils calculated towards the adequacy calculation pursuant to RSA 198:38, I-a shall have their existing tuition agreement presented by the district to the state board of education. The state board of education may require the district to enter into a new tuition agreement.

III. For a pupil attending an open enrollment school in another school district, the department of education shall calculate and distribute open enrollment aid payments during the year in which the pupil is educated as set forth in this paragraph. The first payment shall be 30 percent of the per pupil open enrollment aid amount, excluding differential aid components pursuant to RSA 198:40-a, II(b)-(d), multiplied by the number of eligible pupils enrolled on October 1st. Such payment shall be made on November 1st, January 1st, and April 1st. To calculate the final payment, the department of education shall multiply the per pupil amount, including differential aid components pursuant to RSA 198:40-a, II(b)-(d), by the average daily membership in attendance for the full school year, and subtract the total amount of the first 3 payments made. The remaining balance shall be the final payment paid on October 1st of the following school year.

IV. The source of funds for payments under this section shall be moneys from the education trust fund established in RSA 198:39. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant from the education trust fund to satisfy the state's obligation under this section. Such warrant for payment shall be issued regardless of the balance of funds available in the education trust fund. If the balance in the education trust fund, after the issuance of any such warrant, is less than zero, the state comptroller shall transfer sufficient funds from the general fund to eliminate such deficit.

V. In accordance with current department of education standards, the funding and educational decision-making process for children with disabilities transferring to a school shall be the responsibility of the resident school district and shall retain all current options available to the parent and to the school district.

VI. The commissioner of the department of education shall apply for all federal funding available to open enrollment schools under any federal source of funds. The commissioner shall expend any such funds received in a manner acceptable to the funding source.

VII. A resident district may provide funds, services, transportation, equipment, materials, or personnel to a school, in addition to the amounts specified in this section in accordance with the policies of the resident school district.

194-D:4 District of Liability for Special Education Services. The resident district shall remain responsible for educational decision making and the provision of special education and related services under RSA 186-C, consistent with the child's IEP, for pupils with disabilities who transfer to a school outside the resident district.

194-D:5 State Board; Duties.

I. The state board shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, consistent with the provisions of this chapter relative to the administration of enrollment in public schools across the state.

II. The state board shall convene one or more working committees to study and make recommendations regarding the implementation and effectiveness of open enrollment policies. The recommendations shall be provided to the legislative oversight committee in RSA 193-C:8-a.

2 New Subparagraph; Education Trust Fund; Open Enrollment Aid. Amend RSA 198:39, I by inserting after subparagraph (q) the following new subparagraph:

(r) To fund open enrollment aid pursuant to RSA 194-D.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

2026-1451h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the governing body of each school district to establish an open enrollment policy to allow pupils to transfer among schools within the district and from another district in the state. Each school would be required to provide notice of its capacity to accept open enrollment pupils and would require selection by lottery in the event applications exceed capacity. The bill also establishes a funding formula for payments by the department of education from the education trust fund for open enrollment pupils.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Rep. Balboni spoke against and yielded to questions.

Rep. Peternel spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

Rep. Cornell requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 182 - NAYS 172

YEAS - 182

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

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 Scully, Kevin
 Suiter, John
 Wherry, Robert

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 Polozov, Yuri
 Walsh, Thomas

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 Summers, James
 Tudor, Paul
 Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
 DeSimone, Debra
 Edwards, Jess
 Janigian, John
 Walsh, Lilli
 Lundgren, David
 McMahon, Charles
 Osborne, Jason
 Potucek, John
 Selby, Donald
 Sweeney, Joe
 Verville, Kevin
 Wilson, Vicki

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 Layon, Erica
 Lynn, Bob
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 Harrington, Michael
 Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
 Aron, Michael

Grant, George
 Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
 Spilsbury, Walter

Aron, Judy

NAYS - 172

BELKNAP

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
 Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
 Faulkner, Barry
 Germana, Nicholas
 Rhodes, Jennifer

Berch, Paul
 Gruber, James
 Newell, Jodi
 Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
 Jacobs, Samantha
 O'Rorke, Terri

Fox, Dru
 Jones, Philip
 Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lovett, Peter
 Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
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Murray, Alistandra
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 Budathoki, Suraj
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 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
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 Kluger, Lee Ann
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Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee amendment was adopted.

Rep. Balboni offered minority committee amendment (1455h).

Minority Amendment (1455h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT establishing a commission to study public school open enrollment.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Section; Commission to Study Open Enrollment Public Schools; Established. Amend RSA 194-D by inserting after section 7 the following new section:

194-D:8 Commission to Study Open Enrollment Public Schools. There is established a commission to study public school open enrollment and provide revisions related to RSA 194-D.

I. For the purposes of this section, “equitable access” shall mean the principle of ensuring fair and just treatment for all individuals through providing the necessary resources and accommodations to achieve an equally effective and meaningful opportunity to participate in a program or benefit from a service, regardless of their background, including, but not limited to, disability, socioeconomic status, or geographic location.

II. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the commission shall be composed of the following members:

(a) The commissioner of the department of education, or their designee.

(b) Three public school superintendents, each of whom shall be from a different region as recognized by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA), appointed by the NHSAA legislation committee chair.

(c) Two local school board members or officers, each of whom shall be from a different region as recognized by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association (NHSAA), appointed by the NHSAA legislation committee chair.

(d) The chair of the house education committee or designee, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(e) The chair of the senate education committee or designee, appointed by the president of the senate.

(f) A member of a house education committee, appointed jointly by the chair of the committee and the speaker of the house of representatives.

(g) A member of a senate education committee, nominated by the chair of the committee and appointed by the president of the senate.

(h) One business administrator, representing a different public school district than the appointed superintendents under subparagraph (b), appointed by the head of the New Hampshire School Business Administrators Association.

(i) Two parents or guardians of public school students in the state, who should each be representatives of different counties in the state, sizes of schools and school districts, and demographics of public school students, including but not limited to disability, socioeconomic, gender, race, and ethnic backgrounds.

(j) A charter school administrator, appointed by the New Hampshire Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

(k) A special education director, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Special Educators.

III. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

IV. The commission shall:

(a) Develop a public school open enrollment system that:

(1) Establishes state funding mechanisms for this educational pathway;

(2) Provides an adequate education through an integrated system of shared responsibility between state and local government; and

(3) Ensures equitable access for all public school students and families.

(b) Propose revisions to RSA 194-D to establish the following components of open enrollment public schools:

(1) The random, fair, and equitable process for student enrollment and selection that complies with all federal and state civil rights and anti-discrimination laws and regulations;

(2) The department of education's ability to provide support and guidance to school districts that want to consider open enrollment;

(3) Required timelines to establish an open enrollment school, including those stated in RSA 194-D:3;

(4) Transportation responsibilities between public schools;

(5) Special education responsibilities between public schools;

(6) Required policies for an open enrollment public school;

(7) Clarifications on budget documentation for public schools using open enrollment;

(8) State procedures regarding use of state adequacy and differentiated grants to fund open enrollment in public schools; and

(9) Development of a funding algorithm and mechanism that prevents direct invoicing between public schools.

(c) Determine the work schedule and organizational plan to complete the review process with the timeline specified in paragraph VI. This may include additional work sessions with various groups of New Hampshire public school educators and leaders.

V. The first meeting of the commission shall occur within 30 days of the effective date of this section. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. Eight members of the commission shall constitute a quorum. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first named member of the commission, excluding the commissioner of education. The commission shall make all decisions related to its recommendations using a simple majority vote of the commission members.

VI. The commission shall provide a final report no later than September 1, 2027. The report shall be sent to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairs and ranking members of the house and senate education committees, and the commissioner of the department of education.

2 Prospective Repeal. RSA 194-D:8, relative to establishing the commission to study open enrollment public schools, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect September 1, 2027.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

2026-1455h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study public school open enrollment.

The question being adoption of the minority committee amendment.

Rep. Damon spoke in favor and yielded to questions.

Rep. Peternel spoke against.

Rep. Giasson requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 169 - NAYS 184

YEAS - 169

BELKNAP

CARROLL

Nagel, David

Boudman, Bobbi
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Booras, Efstathia
Cornell, Patricia
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Boyd, Bill
Budathoki, Suraj
Darby, Will
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Jeudy, Jean
Foxy, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Beauchemin, Paige
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Gregg, Alicia
Hegner, Karen
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Schamberg, Thomas
Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Soucy, Timothy

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Sargent, Gregory
Wallner, Mary Jane

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Muns, Chris
Scherr, Buzz
Turer, Eric

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Porcelli, Susan
Simpson, Alexis
Vallone, Mark

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Manos, Zoe
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Ward, Gerald

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Meuse, David
Read, Ellen
Sytek, John
Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
England, Myles
Horriggan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Malone, Amy
Southworth, Thomas

Butler, Billie
Howard, Heath
Larochelle, John
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John
Rollins, Skip

Damon, Hope
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale

NAYS - 184**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Comtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom

Bogert, Steven
Dumais, Russell
Terry, Paul

Bordes, Mike
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Coker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Thackston, Dick

Mattson, Rita

Nalevanko, Rich

COOSDavis, Arnold
Ouellet, MikeDurkin, Sean
King, SethKorzen, Lori
Tierney, JamesMurphy, Michael
Tremblay, Marc**GRAFTON**Barton, Joseph
Franz, LindaBeaulier, Calvin
Ladd, RickBerezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGHAlexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wherry, RobertAmmon, Keith
Colcombe, Rich  
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, JeffreyBarbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, TomBerry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark**MERRIMACK**Andrus, Louise
Cambriels, Jose
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, ThomasAures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, JamesAylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, ClaytonMcGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin**ROCKINGHAM**Ball, Lorie
Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, WayneBennett, Cindy
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Sabourin dit Choini  re, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, KennethBernardy, JD
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, VickiBridle, Nicholas
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Roy, Terry
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Vose, Michael**STRAFFORD**Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, ThomasBurnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, KelleyDeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, RobleyDeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David**SULLIVAN**Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George

Hemingway, Wayne

Aron, Judy

and the minority committee amendment failed.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Rep. Noble spoke in favor.

Rep. Hall spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 168 - NAYS 184**YEAS - 168****BELKNAP**Aldrich, Glen
Dumais, Russell
Terry, PaulBogert, Steven
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, TravisCoker, Matthew
Harvey-Bolia, JulietComtois, Barbara
Ploszaj, Tom**CARROLL**Avellani, Lino
Smith, JonathanBelcher, Mike
Peternel, KatyHamblen, Joseph
Brown, RichardMacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Thackston, Dick

Mattson, Rita

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey

MERRIMACK

Aures, Cyril
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aylward, Deborah
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Carol
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Cambrils, Jose
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Bennett, Cindy
Drago, Mike
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Love, David
McMahon, Charles
Brown, Pam
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Weyler, Kenneth

Bernardy, JD
Dunn, Ron
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
Melvin, Charles
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Mannion, Dennis
Edwards, Jess
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
McDonnell, Valerie
Nadeau, Brian
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sweeney, Joe
Vose, Michael

Thomas, Douglas
Ford, Mary
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Litchfield, Melissa
McGrath, Linda
Osborne, Jason
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Burnham, Claudine
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

DeDe-Poulin, Denise
Granger, Michael
Hall, Robley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Spilsbury, Walter

Grant, George

Aron, Judy

Aron, Michael

NAYS - 184**BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
McAleer, Chris

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Crawford, Karel

Paige, David

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Harvey, Cathryn
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rourke, Terri

Fox, Dru
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
 Fellows, Sallie
 Lovett, Peter
 Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
 Fracht, David
 Lucas, Janet
 Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
 Hakken-Phillips, Mary
 Muirhead, Russell
 Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
 Sullivan, Jared
 Oppel, Thomas
 Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
 Booras, Efstathia
 Cornell, Patricia
 Davis, Fred
 Gregg, Alicia
 Hegner, Karen
 Juris, Louis
 Leapley, Nicole
 Long, Patrick
 Manohar, Sanjeev
 Plamondon, Marc
 Raymond, Heather
 Newman, Sue
 Staub, Kathy
 Veilleux, Daniel
 Wilhelm, Matthew

Boyd, Bill
 Budathoki, Suraj
 Darby, Will
 Fedolfi, Jim
 Grill, Jessica
 Herbert, Christopher
 Kerwin, Erin
 LeClerc, Daniel
 Howard, Molly
 McGhee, Kat
 Preece, David
 Rombeau, Catherine
 Salvi, Santosh
 Swanson, Dale
 Dolan, William

Beauchemin, Paige
 Chourasia, Manoj
 Dargie, Paul
 Foss, Lily
 Harriott-Gathright, Linda
 Jack, Martin
 Kluger, Lee Ann
 Leishman, Peter
 Murray, Megan
 Murphy, Nancy
 Proulx, Mark
 Rung, Rosemarie
 Seibert, Christine
 Tellez, Trinidad
 Thomas, Wendy

Bergeron, Dan
 Chretien, Suzanne
 Elberger, Susan
 Georges, Mary
 Hartnett, Tim
 Jeudy, Jean
 Foxx, Loren
 Lloyd, Christal
 MacKenzie, Mark
 Petrigno, Peter
 Newman, Ray
 Ryan, Linda
 Spier, Carry
 Vail, Suzanne
 Wheeler, Jonah

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
 Kelly, Eileen
 Hicks, Matthew
 Newsom, James
 Sargent, Gregory
 Wallner, Mary Jane

Bricchi, Tracy
 Ebel, Karen
 Lane, Connie
 Payeur, Stephanie
 Schamberg, Thomas
 Woods, Gary

Caplan, Tony
 Gallager, Eric
 Luneau, David
 Richards, Beth
 Snodgrass, Jim

Colby, Eleana
 Gibbs, Meryll
 Hall, Muriel
 Roesener, James
 Soucy, Timothy

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
 Cahill, Michael
 Edgar, Michael
 Haskins, Linda
 Maggiore, Jim
 Milz, David
 Reynolds, Ned
 Simpson, Alexis
 Turer, Eric

Ball, Lorie
 de Vries, Erica
 Gilman, Julie
 Knab, Allison
 Manos, Zoe
 Muns, Chris
 Read, Ellen
 Sorensen, Carrie
 Vallone, Mark

Bridle, Nicholas
 DeSimone, Debra
 Grote, Jaci
 Lundgren, David
 Markell, Jay
 Perez, Kristine
 Roy, Terry
 Sytek, John
 Ward, Gerald

Bryer, Scott
 Donnelly, Tanya
 Guthrie, Joseph
 Paige, Mark
 Meuse, David
 Porcelli, Susan
 Scherr, Buzz
 Dolan, Tom
 Weinstein, Toni

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
 England, Myles
 Horrigan, Timothy
 Levesque, Cassandra
 Schmidt, Peter
 Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
 Smith, Geoffrey
 Johnson, Erik
 Smith, Marjorie
 Selig, Loren
 Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
 Gilmore, Gary
 LaMontagne, Jessica
 Malone, Amy
 Southworth, Thomas

Butler, Billie
 Howard, Heath
 Larochelle, John
 Miller, Seth
 Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
 Hemingway, Wayne

Cloutier, John
 Palmer, William

Damon, Hope
 Rollins, Skip

Girard, Dale

and the committee report failed.

MOTION TO LAY ON THE TABLE

Rep. Sweeney moved that **SB 101-FN**, authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state, be laid on the table.

On a division vote, with 320 members having voted in the affirmative, and 32 in the negative, the motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 12:27 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

SB 429-FN-A, relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mike Belcher for Education Policy and Administration. This bill, as amended, requires the placement of a basic trauma, or “stop-the-bleed” kit with a tourniquet, be placed in schools. This compliments automated external defibrillators (AEDs) as a well-rounded supply for the treatment of medical emergencies in schools, which addresses trauma and hemorrhage as a leading cause of mortality in young people. The bill further enshrines some exemptions in existing audio/video recording policy necessary to tackle unintended consequences of prior expansive prohibitions on such recordings in public schools, enabling such recordings for use in the normal course of academic work as well as events such as sports and choir. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (1351h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor and relative to the parental bill of rights concerning the creation of student media recordings.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 3 with the following:

4 Education; Parental Bill of Rights. RSA 189-B:4, I(p) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(p) To consent in writing before the state or any of its political subdivisions, including any school pursuant to RSA 189:68, III–V, makes a video or voice recording, unless such recording is made during or as part of a court proceeding; part of a forensic interview in a criminal or child protective services investigation; solely for the purpose of a safety demonstration, including the maintenance of order and discipline in common areas of a school or on student transportation vehicles; as a component of the administration of a required assessment; during a school-sponsored event that is open to the general public; as part of the regular instructional coursework required by the school; or as part of instruction in a student journalism, media production, or broadcasting course or school-sponsored extracurricular activity that has been approved by the local school board or board of trustees.

5 Effective Date.

I. Section 1-3 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

2026-1351h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires the placement of trauma kits in public schools and makes an appropriation to a fund established to fund the placement.

II. Adds additional exemptions to the parental bill of rights in education concerning parental written consent prior to the creation of student audio or visual recordings.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

The committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

The committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee in Finance.

MOTION TO PRINT DEBATE

Rep. Germana moved that the debate on **SB 101-FN**, authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

DEBATE ON SB 101

Representative Balboni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. SB 101 aims to expand education choice in New Hampshire through universal open enrollment, letting students attend schools outside the resident districts. Giving families more options can open doors for students to find the right fit and succeed. But for choice to matter, it must be accessible. I oppose this legislation as written. It risks limiting access. Requiring families to provide transportation means participation depends on flexible schedules and reliable travel, leaving many working families and vulnerable students behind. A policy meant to increase opportunity should not make access more unequal. Amendment (1451h) does not solve that problem. It shifts the focus to funding using a charter-style model. Under that approach, receiving districts would get about \$10,000 per student in state aid, well below the roughly \$21,000 average it actually costs to educate a student in New Hampshire. At the same time, the resident district loses that funding while still retaining significant responsibilities. It remains accountable for fixed costs and ongoing programs, and most importantly, for covering the full cost of special education for students who leave, including transportation and all services required by their IEPs. Districts could also lose stabilization grants and Title I funding. The result is a real risk of pulling resources out of communities that can least afford it, widening gaps rather than expanding opportunity. A 2016 legislative study already found this charter-style approach to special education funding problematic. Those issues remain unresolved, and expanding the model could carry the same challenges and potential legal costs to the broader system. Beyond

funding, key issues remain unanswered. How will capacity be managed? How will enrollment be handled fairly and consistently? Schools are required to use lotteries, but can still prioritize or exclude certain students based on attendance or discipline, raising discrimination and legal concerns. If a student is accepted one year, are they guaranteed a seat the next? How will we ensure support and continuity for at-risk students, English language learners, students with 504 plans, or those experiencing homelessness? We also don't yet know the additional cost to the Educational Trust Fund. There's no clear estimate of how many students would receive the additional grants, nor clarity on who resolves disputes over enrollment, funding, transportation, or services. And without predictability, how can districts responsibly plan their budgets from year to year? These are not minor details. They are fundamental to whether this policy works. If we are serious about expanding educational choice, then we need to do it in a way that is fair, sustainable, and truly accessible. The minority amendment offers a more responsible path, bringing legislators, educators, and stakeholders together to design a system that delivers on the promise of choice for every student. I urge you to oppose this motion so we can take the time to get this right. And Mr. Speaker, I ask for a roll call vote.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a question?

Representative Balboni: Yes.

Speaker Steven Smith: You may ask.

Representative Raymond: Thank you for taking my question. I'm a school board member in Nashua, and I'm trying to understand the possible impact to my district if a student with an IEP or a student with a 504 plan attends another district's school?

Representative Balboni: Thank you for the question. According to the bill, the resident district has the responsibility to ensure that the student from your district receives all provisions and services within the IEP. So right now, the average cost for a student, a special education student, is about \$46,000 in addition to the adequacy grants. However, students on 504 plans are considered to be regular education students, and all costs and their accommodations would have to be assumed by the receiving districts. Some of those costs could include for students with physical disabilities, so there could be costs associated with making renovations to buildings for wheelchair students. There could be costs associated with special equipment for those students with visual and hearing impairments. And they can cost thousands of dollars.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a follow-up? You may inquire.

Representative Raymond: Thank you. Thank you for taking my follow-up. So just to be clear, if I have a student in Nashua who, for example, needs a wheelchair, and they choose to attend an out-of-district school that is not wheelchair accessible, are my Nashua property taxpayers responsible for the cost of the physical building renovations to make that other district school wheelchair accessible?

Representative Balboni: The way that I understand the bill is that if that student in a wheelchair has those provisions for accessibility contained within their IEP, it would be the responsibility of the residential district to pay for those services.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Peternel is recognized to speak for the majority amendment.

Representative Peternel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of amendment (1451h). The other body sent us a perfectly workable bill, but we did find some changes necessary. And after hearing over 10 hours of testimony, as well as a two-hour full committee work session with the Department of Education, the majority of the committee agreed on this amendment. This amendment changes the term sending district to resident district, because it is the parent who makes the decision to apply to send a student to a different school. The amendment clarifies reasons for denial of acceptance in a receiving district and adds exceptions for identified disabilities, 504 plans or individual education plans, foster care or McKinney-Vento status, or chronic absence due to bullying, which is on the rise in the State of New Hampshire. Lottery preferences are established for students of active-duty military students in addition to previously defined preference categories. The resident district is required to provide transportation for special education or 504 plan students if transportation is part of their plan. And as a reminder, these are public schools who are already providing special services to students, so they should have no trouble accommodating students from another public school. Amendment (1451h) requires the state board to convene working groups to study and make further recommendations regarding the implementation and effectiveness of open enrollment policies. This will allow much more time for public input for concerns that need to be addressed in rules as opposed to legislation before implementation. As I said, the other body sent us a very workable bill that required minimal cleanup, and we should not waste any more time studying open enrollment at the expense of student success. Please vote Ought to Pass on amendment (1451h).

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield to a question?

Representative Peternel: Yes.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Edwards, you may inquire.

Representative Edwards: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for allowing the question. I'm curious if we pass this bill, will we increase the probability that there will be at least one full-time talented and gifted program in this state?

Representative Peternel: I'm not sure. Thank you for the question. I am not sure that this bill would address that specifically. But if schools decide to take the opportunity to innovate, which is already in statute, then perhaps there would be the possibility of a gifted and talented school.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a further question?

Representative Peternel: No.

Speaker Steven Smith: Sorry, the member does not yield. All righty, the question is on amendment (1451h), and Representative Cornell has requested a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. All righty, the question is on the adoption of amendment (1451h). Representative Luneau is recognized for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Luneau: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know this amendment sucks millions of dollars out of your local schools, especially those with higher poverty rates and lower property values, and if I know this amendment fails to address special education and disability rights, placing an even greater burden on taxpayers from both the sending and receiving districts, and if I know broken enrollment is massively unpopular, with over 100 towns representing the vast majority of New Hampshire residents passing warrant articles to restrict participation, then would I press the red button to defeat this amendment so that we can fix it and get it right? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Peternel is recognized for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Peternel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that this bill actually requires the state to send more money to public schools, if I know that education is about the student and not the system, if I know that competition breeds excellence and innovation, and if I know that this amendment makes a really awesome bill even more awesome, would I now press the green button and vote ought to pass on amendment (1451h)?

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on amendment (1451h). This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, press the green button. If opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present and an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 182 in the affirmative, 172 in the negative. The amendment is adopted. The bill is on second reading and open to further amendment. The minority amendment is (1455h), printed in House Record Section 16 on pages 32 and 33. Representative Damon is recognized to speak on the minority amendment.

Representative Damon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Derry, Goffstown, Meredith, Rindge, Strafford. What do these five towns have in common? They are among the over 100 communities that voted recently on a bipartisan basis to enact limits on open enrollment that this bill would override with a mandate. With this backdrop, I rise to introduce amendment (1455h), which is on page 32 of your calendar, and invite your thoughtful support for this reasonable solution to a proposal that the people we represent statewide remain very skeptical of. I am not opposed to open enrollment, and I am pleased that the committee amendment does address some of the significant questions. However, as you have just heard, the current proposal is not ready for implementation. The many uncertainties around special education, transportation, geographic boundary preferences, fair access for all students, definitions of key phrases including significant disciplinary issues, and chronic incentivism all need to be addressed before universal open enrollment happens. This replace-all amendment would create a study commission to thoroughly address these concerns and resolve the issues in a proactive way. While expanding opportunity for students is a shared value, major policy changes must be implemented without destabilizing the public education system that serves 90 percent of our K-12 students. We need to thoroughly define the parameters of a fair open enrollment policy so that both resident and receiving districts benefit. Districts need time to understand the impacts of likely enrollment changes and make adjustments in future budget cycles. For every student who leaves a district, the sending district loses state funding of \$4,000 to \$9,000. Those students left behind in the sending district now have fewer resources, property taxes will rise, and students in property-poor communities will take the biggest hit. Perhaps we need to consider phase-out or hold harmless grants to school districts just as we did with the EFA program, or perhaps we need to have an initial phase-in period to assess how it works on a limited basis. A clear understanding of fiscal responsibilities and impacts is essential. Passing a bill without a comprehensive fiscal note is simply not responsible governance. There needs to be capacity at the state Department of Education to monitor implementation and effectiveness, arbitrate disputes between parents and districts, ensure that districts are honoring their obligations to provide continuity of education, track how often students are transferring, and report data on the entire open enrollment program. This is not addressed in the current bill proposal, but would be carefully defined by the study commission, including whether an appropriation is needed for this essential work at DOE. It is important to note that these are bipartisan concerns from districts large and small, rural and urban, with varied socioeconomic status. Constituents throughout the state have spoken strongly in voting to restrict open enrollment. Some of their concerns have been addressed, but not enough, and 2,000 people testified online against open enrollment, with a mere 75 in favor. This is not saying, not now, not ever. It is saying, let's do this carefully, with attention to creating a sustainable, fair, fiscally responsible open enrollment program. Please press the green button to vote yes on the study commission amendment. And Mr. Speaker, I request a division vote.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a question?

Representative Damon: Yes.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Petrigno may inquire.

Representative Petrigno: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Representative, for taking my question. So, I represent the town of Milford, and recently the voters did put limits on open enrollment, and we feel that's right for our community. I understand that about 100 other towns throughout the state have done the same thing, so I'm just wondering if this would override and invalidate the will of the voters in Milford and all the other towns across the state? Thank you.

Representative Damon: Thank you for the thoughtful question. And yes, that is the way the bill is written. It requires school districts to set open enrollment policies. Nearly every district that enacted open enrollment policies to this point have established limits that protect taxpayers from sudden unknown expense increases. If this bill is enacted as law, it will override all the districts that voted to protect their taxpayers. This is a statewide mandate. It is the opposite of local control.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for another question?

Representative Damon: No.

Speaker Steven Smith: Member does not yield.

Representative Layon: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order about a false statement made in the previous speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: State your point of order.

Representative Layon: My point of order is that Derry did not vote on open enrollment, and that was a false statement, and I had a point of order to have the prior speaker correct the record to be accurate. My point of order is that there was a false statement made.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Layon, hang on. So the members' point is well taken, but look, what we think is true. So, there's an old quote. It's not that they're lying. It's just that so much of what they know isn't so. I think that can be applied to everyone on a bipartisan fashion, so let's just be careful out there. All right. Representative Giasson would like a roll call on the amendment. Is that sufficiently seconded? It is. This will be a roll call vote. Members take your seats. All right. Flag on the play. I mean, you can come in and take your seats anyway, but we will not be going into the voting mode because I got so distracted with points of order that I forgot to recognize Representative Peternel to speak against the amendment. You may proceed.

Representative Peternel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a moment, I thought maybe I had already spoken. I rise in opposition to amendment (1455h) because this amendment is simply not necessary. Between Senate Bill 101 and two other open enrollment bills which were introduced or passed in the last two years, this body as well as the one on the other side of the wall have heard probably 13, 14, 15 hours of testimony in addition to the two-hour work session and the almost two-hour executive session that we had on the underlying bill. There is also currently a functioning open enrollment district that can, for all intents and purposes, qualify as a pilot program. In fact, they have proven that you do not need to recreate Hotel California with your local town warrant articles to continue to trap your students in districts that are not serving their needs. So, in a sense, this topic has already been well deliberated and essentially studied. Legislators from four different education committees have heard and responded to feedback from constituents and school board members. And this bill also includes rulemaking authority for the Board of Education as well as a requirement to convene working committees. This allows for more opportunity and input into the application of open enrollment. And in addition, the effective date isn't until July 1, 2027, which gives districts a year to plan for implementation. For critics who complain that open enrollment is moving too fast, they are just wrong. New Hampshire is far behind the curve on implementation of open enrollment. So let's put students first and press the red button on amendment (1455h).

Speaker Steven Smith: All right. So this is going pretty well, but I'd like to point out to the members, we have extremely important guests in the gallery who will be occupying your seats in 25, 30 years maybe. So let's be models of decorum and quiet. We're going to do a roll call vote. Members take your seats. The question is on the adoption of amendment (1455h) and Representative Woodcock is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Woodcock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I know that perhaps not Derry, but well over 100 other towns in New Hampshire voted enrollment limitations and were the voice of the people, and if I know that all of us sitting here this morning do, that one of the most disturbing parts of this new law are the unintended consequences of any new law that we're not foreseeing, and if I know that Representative Damon just laid out a series of issues with a proposed open enrollment bill that could very well lead to multiple unintended consequences, if I further know that a bill of this magnitude will impact every city and town in New Hampshire and that it should arrive on their doorsteps with all of these issues corrected, then would I support the effort to make this best open enrollment legislation possible by pushing the green button and allowing the commission to eliminate the unintended consequences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Belcher is recognized for parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Belcher: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that study is for issues that we need more information on, and if I know that we already have successful open enrollment occurring in this

state and we have the information, Mr. Speaker, if I know that parents have a right to direct the education of their children, but currently districts are prohibiting students from leaving, then, Mr. Speaker, finally, if I know that a right delayed is a right denied, would I then press the red button to retain the amendment we just adopted? Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the adoption of Amendment (1455h). This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, press the green button. If opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 169 in the affirmative, 184 in the negative. The amendment fails. Now, finally, the main motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Representative Hall is recognized to speak against the committee report.

Representative Hall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to SB 101 as amended, which mandates that all public schools must become open enrollment schools and authorizes parents to enroll their children in any New Hampshire public school they so choose. Choice? It's only a choice for families with flexible work schedules, reliable transportation and financial stability. This bill, as amended, creates access barriers and expands the divide between the haves and the have nots. Mandatory open enrollment sets our communities against one another. It expands the already existing inequality among school districts and is likely to financially devastate our smaller, more vulnerable districts. They may face substantial reductions in programming and enrollment shift, undermining local control and creating more educational gaps. A rural district that loses enough students could lose the enrollment threshold to even keep their school open. The risks to legal exposure are significant. Disputes over placement decisions and services of special education and 504 students could end up in due process hearings and courtrooms. This bill opens the door to discrimination complaints in federal oversight. School districts are liable for child safety as we know. Yet, they might have bus drop-offs many miles from the child's home. What could possibly go wrong? From a financial perspective, funding of open enrollment under this amended legislation relies on state funded grants with tens of millions of dollars to be withdrawn from the education trust fund to cover the cost of this plan. This is the same pool of money that is supposed to be used to adequately fund our currently underfunded public schools. We need to meet our constitutional obligation before devising new plans to spend our money irresponsibly. Furthermore, this legislation could have a serious impact on district budgets. When the student leaves their home district for another, the per pupil adequacy aid follows them. That means the resident district loses state funding for the children who leave, but it does not lose its fixed costs; electricity, heating, busing and staffing. Resident districts are required by federal law to pay for and provide services to students with disabilities regardless of where they enroll which surely could result in costly unanticipated expenditures. This legislation is fraught with many concerns, uncertainties and unintended consequences regarding funding, special education, tuition agreements, eligibility, transportation, other programs such as career tech, athletics, co-curriculars and many more. The vast majority of granite staters do not support open enrollment in our state as evidenced by in-person and online testimony as well as the tens of thousands of voters in more than a hundred of our towns across the state who have voiced their opposition through warrant articles. Our constituents have spoken. It is our job to listen to the people of New Hampshire. Please vote no on Ought to Pass as Amended, and Mr. Speaker, I request a roll call vote.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Noble is recognized to speak for the committee report.

Representative Noble: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I stand before you today in strong support of SB 101. At the core of this legislation is a simple principle; every child deserves access to the public school that aligns with their needs and aspirations. Today, children are confined by geography. A child's address should never limit their education or the potential they can reach. SB 101 changes that by allowing parents to enroll their children in any public school with available capacity. This bill empowers families with meaningful choice without adding tuition costs, without creating barriers, and without discrimination. It opens doors for students who may be struggling, and it gives them a chance to thrive in a learning environment better suited to them. Importantly, this bill is designed with fairness and transparency in mind. Schools must clearly publish their capacity, which should be determined without the addition of staff. It could even be zero. However, districts will not be able to create a policy that traps students in an education setting that does not work for them. If demand exceeds availability, students are selected through a lottery system just as charter schools do, and admissions cannot be based on disability, academic ability, or athletic talent. SB 101 ensures that students with disabilities continue to receive services through their resident district. It maintains funding through a clear, statewide formula, not local dollars following the child. It allows choice while keeping money in the public school system. There were a lot of questions during the process of this bill, but the one you didn't hear is why would parents want to pull their child out of their local school? Asking this question of parents is not common practice today, but it will become essential to the success of schools going forward. Under open enrollment, schools will be incentivized to listen to what families want in their child's education. This will spark innovation and encourage schools to find new ways to meet the academic needs of the students they serve. At a recent town hall in Milford, a parent shared with me that high test scores would not be her top priority in choosing a school. School culture mattered most to her. Many families

feel the same way. The good news is schools already have the resources to create a great school culture. It just takes strong leadership. Success won't come only to the schools with the most resources. It will come to the schools that are creative, adaptable, and willing to think outside the box. What we need to do next year is to start peeling back requirements to allow the schools the flexibility they need to attract students. Critics may worry about disruption, but this bill is thoughtful and measured. Students can only transfer where space exists. Districts retain control over capacity, and families, not bureaucracies, make the final decision about what is best for their child. This is not about dismantling public education. It is about strengthening it. It's about the student who needs a different academic program. It's about the student who would be safer or more supported in another school. It's about giving parents the ability to act when they know something isn't working. SB 101 is a step toward a more flexible, more responsive, and more equitable public education system. Please join me in supporting this landmark legislation to modernize public education and expand learning opportunities for New Hampshire students. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Does the member yield for a question?

Representative Noble: I do not. Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: She does not yield. All right. The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Representative Hall requests a roll call. Is that sufficiently seconded? That is sufficiently seconded. This will be a roll call vote. Members, take your seats. The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment on Senate Bill 101. Representative Cornell is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Cornell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that this universal open enrollment legislation, as amended, lacks clarity, undermines local control, and is fiscally irresponsible, and if I know that this open enrollment proposal is not accessible to all, leaving many students behind, including our more vulnerable population. And if I know that mandatory open enrollment expands the already existing inequality among school districts and could lead to underenrolled schools, substantial reductions in programming, and ultimately school closures, and finally, if I know that school districts throughout the state have enacted open enrollment policies that work for their community and that overriding the will of those districts with a costly mandate would be a slap in the face to the taxpayers that we were elected to represent, would I now press the red button to reject this OTPA motion so that a better motion could be made? Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Belcher is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Representative Belcher: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that as long as it is government that is rendering the service of education, to segregate children by zip code is radically discriminatory. Mr. Speaker, if I further know that while government stands in the way of parents telling them they are not allowed to leave their local district, we signal to parents that their children belong to us, not to them. Mr. Speaker, if I know...

Speaker Steven Smith: The member will suspend for a minute. Like which part of the House will come to order do I have to explain? We are this close to being able to go to lunch and after lunch 21 bills. Let's not make this a longer day than it has to be by making me do this all the time. The member can continue.

Representative Belcher: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I know that this bill enables local schools to decide how many students they can reasonably accept but stops them from handcuffing parents when they want to leave, and finally, Mr. Speaker, if I know that parents voting with their feet by deciding to send their children elsewhere will shift underlying incentives so local schools will actively improve their own performance, would I now vote green? Thank you.

Speaker Steven Smith: The question is on the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment on Senate Bill 101. This is a roll call vote. If you're in favor, press the green button, if opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 168 in the affirmative, 184 in the negative. The committee report fails. For what reason does a member rise?

Representative Sweeney: I move to table Senate Bill 101.

Speaker Steven Smith: Representative Sweeney moves that Senate Bill 101 be laid on the table. The question is whether to lay Senate Bill 101 on the table. We are in a division vote. That is the member withdrew his request. Nobody else said anything. If you are in favor, press the green button, if you are opposed, press the red. Voting stations are open for 30 seconds. Have all members present had an opportunity to vote? The House will attend to the state of the vote. 320 in the affirmative, 32 in the negative, SB 101 is laid on the table. The House is in recess until 1:30.

REGULAR CALENDAR CONTINUED

SB 534-FN, relative to foreign funding and influence in constitutional amendment and local ballot question campaigns. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Ross Berry for Election Law. This bill, as amended, expands the prohibition on foreign funding of election matters to both the state and local level. While current law already prohibits certain foreign expenditures at the state level, the amendment strengthens and clarifies that prohibition by making clear that it applies to both

expenditures and contributions. The amendment also extends the prohibition to local elections and meetings by revising the applicability provisions in RSA 664 so that the restriction applies uniformly at both the state and local levels. The amendment further incorporates and expands the penalty provisions contained in the original bill. The committee finds it important that these penalties apply not only to political committees, but also to foreign nationals acting in their individual capacity. This ensures the law cannot be avoided simply by acting independently rather than through a political committee. The amendment also provides that violations may be subject to any other penalties available under RSA 664:21. For these reasons, the committee recommends the bill Ought to Pass with Amendment. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (1406h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to compliance with certain political expenditures and contribution statutes.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Political Expenditures and Contributions; General Provisions; Applicability of Chapter. Amend RSA 664:1 to read as follows:

664:1 Applicability of Chapter. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all state primary, general, and special elections, but shall only apply to presidential preference primaries as provided in this section. ***The provisions of RSA 664:2, 664:4, VII, 664:5, III, and 664:14-22 shall apply to city, town, school district, and village district elections or meetings.*** The provisions relating to political advertising, push polling, and enforcement, RSA 664:14 through RSA [664:22] ***664:21***, shall additionally apply to presidential primary[~~city, town, school district, and village district~~] elections.

2 Political Expenditures and Contributions; General Provisions; Definitions. Amend RSA 664:2, X to read as follows:

X. "Measure" shall mean any constitutional amendment or question that is submitted or intended to be submitted to a popular vote [at an election].

3 New Paragraph; Political Expenditures and Contributions; Contributions; Prohibited Political Contributions. Amend RSA 664:4 by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

VII. By any foreign national, as defined in 52 U.S.C. Section 30121(b) and 11 C.F.R. Section 110.20 (a)(3).

4 Political Expenditures and Contributions; Expenditures; Prohibited Political Expenditures. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 664:5 to read as follows:

664:5 Prohibited Political Expenditures. No expenditure or use of a contribution, ***whether*** tangible or intangible, shall be made for the purpose of promoting the success or defeat of any political party, measure, or candidate:

5 New Paragraph; Political Expenditures and Contributions; Enforcement; Penalty. Amend RSA 664:21 by inserting after paragraph IX the following new paragraph:

X. If a political committee, or any foreign national, as defined in 52 U.S.C. Section 30121(b) and 11 C.F.R. Section 110.20(a)(3), willfully violates RSA 664:4, VI or RSA 664:5, III, then the political committee or foreign national shall pay to the secretary of state the amount of such contribution or expenditure, plus interest accrued from the date of the contribution or expenditure, as applicable, at the current prime rate of interest as published in the Wall Street Journal on the date of payment. If funds of the political committee or foreign national are insufficient, the political committee or foreign national shall pay all of its available funds to the secretary of state, and the directors, officers, or members responsible for the financial decisions of the political committee or foreign national shall be jointly and severally liable for the amount due, in addition to any other penalties that may apply from this statute.

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-1406h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Prevents certain foreign nationals from making political contributions during state election cycles.

II. Requires that political committee that file reports with the secretary of state include an affirmation of compliance with RSA 664:4, VI and RSA 664:5, III.

III. Requires a political committee that willfully violates RSA 664:4, VI or RSA 664:5, III to pay to the secretary of state the amount of the relevant contribution or expenditure, plus interest.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

The committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

The committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Finance.

SB 465-FN, classifying xylazine as a schedule III controlled drug. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Peter Bixby for the **Majority** of Environment and Agriculture. This bill would classify xylazine as a schedule III controlled drug. We heard testimony that xylazine is being used to cut fentanyl and creates substantial health problems beyond those created by the opioids it is mixed with. It was not clear, however, that state level schedule III listing would create a control point for the drug entering the black market. There is legislation proposed at the federal level for xylazine that could provide more effective control, here and nationwide, while providing necessary exemptions for veterinary use. We heard testimony from a large animal vet who explained that xylazine is a critical, and much used, tranquilizer for large animal medicine. Especially for handling bovines, ready access to xylazine is important both for preventing animal suffering and for protecting the safety of those handling the animals. The administrative overhead of schedule III handling requirements would be very problematic for vets working in the field and for those who need to prescribe the medication so that farmers can use it with their animals. Vote 11-5.

Rep. Lisa Freeman for the **Minority** of Environment and Agriculture. Given the rising cases of fentanyl being “cut” with xylazine, and given the debilitating effects, far worse than fentanyl, a minority of this committee believe that schedule III reporting requirements and restrictions on use, may be a means to prevent xylazine into falling into the wrong hands and being used counterproductive to its original intent. Additionally, Congress is working on similar legislation, however, the speed of Congress presently necessitates urgency to pass legislation here in New Hampshire. For the above reasons, a minority of the committee believes this bill Ought to Pass.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Majority committee report was adopted.

SB 593, (New Title) enabling the use of solid waste management funds by solid waste management districts. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Barbara Comtois for Environment and Agriculture. This bill is a housekeeping measure intended to correct an omission in existing law that was adopted last year. Under current statute, solid waste management districts—which are cooperative agreements among multiple municipalities—were not included among the entities eligible to receive tipping fee reimbursement payments from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) managed Solid Waste Management funds. Because of that omission, these solid waste management districts are currently unable to receive the quarterly reimbursements that would otherwise be reimbursed to them to reduce trash disposal costs for their participating municipalities. These reimbursement payments have a direct impact on local property taxes. This correction needs to be made as soon as possible so that this additional language can be included in rule making regarding the reimbursement program being set up by DES this summer. Vote 16-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Comtois offered floor amendment (1592h).

Floor Amendment (1592h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1592h).

Rep. Comtois spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (1592h) was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

The committee report was adopted.

SB 505-FN, (New Title) relative to applications for guide licenses and repealing the fee for temporary registration of nonresidents relative to OHRVs. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Mike Ouellet for Fish and Game and Marine Resources. The primary bill eliminates the OHRV temporary registrations, which do not contribute to trail maintenance funding, and aligns New Hampshire’s registration costs with those of Maine and Vermont. The amendment specifies that background checks for NH Guide applicants can be conducted and accessed only by designated personnel within the law enforcement division of New Hampshire Fish and Game. Vote 12-0.

Amendment (1336h)

Amend RSA 215:2, IV as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. The chief of the fish and game law enforcement division or their designee ***within the law enforcement division of the department*** shall review the criminal record information prior to making a registration decision and shall maintain the confidentiality of all criminal history records received pursuant to this section.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the committee on Ways and Means.

SB 543-FN, relative to long-term care eligibility and making an appropriation therefor. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jay Markell for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This comes with a fiscal note, but it is not able to determine what the ultimate amount of the funds the state would need to advance in terms of funding. Since this would be an agreement that the state would be advancing Medicaid funds with the hope of repayment, there are no assurances of repayment of funds by a long term care facility in the event of a bankruptcy filing with a contract that is still executory. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Janet Lucas for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill does not authorize new positions and appropriates the sum of \$1 for the proposed revolving fund. Nevertheless we heard in testimony that the New Hampshire Care Association supports the bill and believes it is worth enacting into statute should the future means exist to monetize the fund. As it stands, both private and county nursing homes are owed millions of dollars for care provided to patients awaiting application approval for Medicaid enrollment. Most importantly, in the case of our county nursing homes, this is another drain on resources caused by uncompensated care. This cost will inevitably pass to property tax payers. The minority believes this bill ought to pass to create a statutory framework to prevent a future increase in property taxes.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Lucas spoke against.

Rep. Markell spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 182 - NAYS 154

YEAS - 182

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

Bogert, Steven
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Coker, Matthew
Ploszaj, Tom

Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wherry, Robert

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yury
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie	Bennett, Cindy	Bernardy, JD	Bryer, Scott
Thomas, Douglas	DeSimone, Debra	Drago, Mike	Dunn, Ron
Edwards, Jess	Ford, Mary	Guthrie, Joseph	Guzofski, James
Harb, Robert	Janigian, John	Khan, Aboul	Kuttab, Katelyn
Walsh, Lilli	Layon, Erica	Litchfield, Melissa	Love, David
Lundgren, David	Lynn, Bob	Markell, Jay	McDonnell, Valerie
McGrath, Linda	McMahon, Charles	Melvin, Charles	Milz, David
Nadeau, Brian	Osborne, Jason	Brown, Pam	Perez, Kristine
Popovici-Muller, Daniel	Porcelli, Susan	Potucek, John	Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Pearson, Stephen	Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt	Selby, Donald	Soti, Julius
Spillane, James	Summers, James	Sytek, John	Dolan, Tom
Tripp, Richard	Tudor, Paul	Vandecasteele, Susan	Verville, Kevin
Vose, Michael	MacDonald, Wayne	Weyler, Kenneth	Wilson, Vicki

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn	Burnham, Claudine	DeLemus, Susan	DeRoy, Susan
Farrington, Samuel	Granger, Michael	Harrington, Michael	Kaczynski, Thomas
Potenza, Kelley	Walker, David		

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret	Grant, George	Hemingway, Wayne	Aron, Judy
Aron, Michael	Rollins, Skip	Smith, Steven	Spilsbury, Walter

**NAYS - 154
BELKNAP**

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi	Burroughs, Anita	Paige, David	McAleer, Chris
Woodcock, Stephen			

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick	Berch, Paul	Harvey, Cathryn	Fox, Dru
Faulkner, Barry	Gruber, James	Jones, Philip	Germana, Nicholas
Newell, Jodi	O'Rorke, Terri	Parshall, Lucius	Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan	Baldwin, Heather	Bolton, Bill	Cormen, Thomas
Fellows, Sallie	Fracht, David	Hakken-Phillips, Mary	Sullivan, Jared
Lovett, Peter	Lucas, Janet	Muirhead, Russell	Oppel, Thomas
Rockmore, Ellen	Spahr, Terry	Stringham, Jerry	Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Bergeron, Dan	Booras, Efstathia	Chourasia, Manoj	Chretien, Suzanne
Cornell, Patricia	Darby, Will	Dargie, Paul	Elberger, Susan
Foss, Lily	Georges, Mary	Gregg, Alicia	Grill, Jessica
Harriott-Gathright, Linda	Hartnett, Tim	Herbert, Christopher	Jack, Martin
Judy, Jean	Juris, Louis	Kerwin, Erin	Kluger, Lee Ann
Foxx, Loren	Leapley, Nicole	LeClerc, Daniel	Leishman, Peter
Lloyd, Christal	Long, Patrick	Howard, Molly	Murray, Megan
MacKenzie, Mark	Manohar, Sanjeev	McGhee, Kat	McLean, Mark
Murphy, Nancy	Petrigno, Peter	Plamondon, Marc	Preece, David
Newman, Ray	Raymond, Heather	Rombeau, Catherine	Rung, Rosemarie
Ryan, Linda	Newman, Sue	Salvi, Santosh	Seibert, Christine
Spier, Carry	Staub, Kathy	Swanson, Dale	Tellez, Trinidad
Vail, Suzanne	Veilleux, Daniel	Dolan, William	Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy	Caplan, Tony	Colby, Eleana	Kelly, Eileen
Ebel, Karen	Gallager, Eric	Gibbs, Merryl	Hicks, Matthew
Lane, Connie	Luneau, David	Hall, Muriel	Newsom, James
Payeur, Stephanie	Richards, Beth	Roesener, James	Schamberg, Thomas
Snodgrass, Jim	Soucy, Timothy	Wallner, Mary Jane	Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy	Cahill, Michael	Mannion, Dennis	de Vries, Erica
Donnelly, Tanya	Edgar, Michael	Gilman, Julie	Grote, Jaci
Haskins, Linda	Knab, Allison	Paige, Mark	Maggiore, Jim
Manos, Zoe	Meuse, David	Muns, Chris	Raynolds, Ned
Scherr, Buzz	Simpson, Alexis	Sorensen, Carrie	Turer, Eric
Vallone, Mark	Ward, Gerald	Weinstein, Toni	

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Larochelle, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

SB 545-FN, relative to financial eligibility for the Medicare savings program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Steven Kesselring for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill was carefully reviewed by the committee and the majority supported Inexpedient to Legislate. The primary concern is the cost to the state. As written, the bill creates new financial obligations without clearly defining the total fiscal impact or identifying a sustainable funding source. At a time when fiscal responsibility is critical, moving forward with uncertain and potentially significant costs is not prudent. Vote 10-8.

Rep. William Palmer for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill removes the resource limit for the Medicare savings program and, subject to CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) approval, makes the low income subsidy for Medicare Part D available to residents to assist with prescription drug costs. This bill clarifies that New Hampshire will continue to help with drug subsidies for those that qualify and this program is 100% federally funded. Failure to pass the bill will leave federal funds already available on the table. If this bill fails patients will likely lose their prescription drug coverage and their medical conditions are likely to worsen leading to emergency visits and hospitalizations both increasing the suffering of patients and leading to significant costs to the state. If this legislation is defeated connections to other Medicare and Medicaid programs, such as LIS (Low Income Subsidy) and MSP (Medicare Savings Programs) will be disrupted with reduction in benefits to low income Granite Staters and decrease in economic benefits these programs provide to the state and local economies.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Palmer spoke against.

Rep. Kesselring spoke in favor.

Rep. Weber requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 182 - NAYS 153

YEAS - 182**BELKNAP**

Aldrich, Glen
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John
Taylor, Brian

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Nalevanko, Rich

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise

HILLSBOROUGH

Alexander, Joe
Berry, Ross
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Fedolfi, Jim
Giasson, Henry

Ammon, Keith
Boehm, Ralph
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda

Boyd, Bill
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven

Barbour, Liz
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim

Labrie, Brian
Miles, Julie
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey

Lascelles, Richard
Mooney, Maureen
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Murphy, Mary
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Mazur, Lisa
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan
Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Aures, Cyril
Devoid, Ricky
Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory
Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John
Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Walsh, Lilli
Lundgren, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Walker, David

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

NAYS - 153 BELKNAP

Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Woodcock, Stephen

Burroughs, Anita

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Faulkner, Barry
Newell, Jodi

Berch, Paul
Gruber, James
O'Rorke, Terri

Harvey, Cathryn
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Fox, Dru
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Foxx, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda

Booras, Efstathia
Darby, Will
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Juris, Louis
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue

Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Gregg, Alicia
Herbert, Christopher
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh

Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
McLean, Mark
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine

Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel

Swanson, Dale
Dolan, William

Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Soucy, Timothy

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Wallner, Mary Jane

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Muns, Chris
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Raynolds, Ned
Turer, Eric

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Manos, Zoe
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Meuse, David
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Laroche, John
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

Butler, Billie
Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Southworth, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian
Palmer, William

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Girard, Dale

and the majority committee report was adopted.

SB 549-FN, (New Title) requiring certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creating reporting requirements for such entities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Matt Drew for the **Majority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. While the provision of clean, sterile syringes helps reduce the spread of various diseases among intravenous drug users, discarded syringes create a significant public health hazard for the population at large. This bill creates a syringe recovery reporting requirement for syringe distribution programs and establishes standards for recovery. The majority of the committee finds that this is a reasonable constraint on state-supported syringe distribution programs. Vote 10-8. Rep. Tim Hartnett for the **Minority** of Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. The bill requires syringe exchange programs to re-allocate resources devoted to harm reduction to syringe sanitation efforts. The bill wrongly assumes that the syringe exchange programs are responsible for all syringe waste. On the contrary, syringe exchange programs have proven to increase syringe returns in multiple studies. The absence of these programs has proven to increase syringe waste in public parks and streets. In summary, there is clear evidence that this bill may actually result in increased syringe waste on our streets and parks, particularly if the legislation results in syringe programs being forced to close.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Hartnett spoke against.

Rep. Drew spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 186 members having voted in the affirmative, and 152 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the committee on Finance.

SB 564, prohibiting certain municipal development restrictions. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Joe Alexander for Housing. The Housing Committee believes this bill should be found Ought to Pass. This bill puts a reasonable guardrail on municipalities by stating they cannot place arbitrary restrictions on the maximum road length. This bill would maintain municipalities have the right to determine road length as long as the reasons they give fall under basic health, safety, and welfare for the municipality or extending the road would violate the state fire code. The Housing Committee believes additional clarity in this law is necessary for both municipalities and property owners. Vote 15-0.

The question being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. David Paige offered floor amendment (1600h).

Floor Amendment (1600h)

Amend RSA 674:21-b, II and III as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Municipalities shall not impose a numerical cap on the number of housing lots on a dead-end road or street that is greater or lower than any such cap adopted in state fire code, provided the proposed lots are within current zoning restrictions and requirements.

III. Municipalities shall permit the placement of utilities, including but not limited to septic systems, wells, electric distribution, drainage structures, and other utilities, within designated perimeter buffer areas of subdivisions, provided that such areas are not wetlands as defined in RSA 482-A:2, X and that such areas are not protected shoreland as defined in RSA 483-B:4, XV.

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

2026-1600h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits municipalities from placing limits on maximum road length and imposing a numerical cap on the number of housing lots on a dead-end road or street, subject to the provisions of the state fire code. The bill also permits municipalities to place utilities within perimeter buffer areas of subdivisions.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1600h).

Rep. Alexander spoke in favor.

Floor amendment (1600h) was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Reps. Flanagan and Fracht spoke against.

Rep. Alexander spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 196 members having voted in the affirmative, and 147 in the negative, the committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to third reading.

SB 464-FN, relative to civil rights enforcement. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Bob Lynn for the **Majority** of Judiciary. The subject of this bill, the Civil Rights Act codified in RSA chapter 354-B, is, as even the assistant attorney general in charge of the Civil Rights Division acknowledged, a poorly drafted statute that, if applied according to its literal terms, can produce untoward results that infringe on a citizen's fundamental First Amendment right to freedom of speech, as was found by the New Hampshire Supreme Court in the recent case of Attorney General v. Hood, 177 N.H. 176 (2025). Under its present wording, the statute prohibits the actual or threatened use of physical force or violence or the actual or threatened damage to or trespass on property "when such actual or threatened conduct is motivated by race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, or disability." The problem with this language is demonstrated by the following scenario: if actor A trespasses on someone's property to place a racist sign on the property and thereafter, actor B observes the sign, is offended by its racist character, and trespasses onto the property to remove the sign, under the current version of the statute both A and B could be found liable for violating its terms since both were motivated by race in the actions they took. Yet it is quite clear the statute was never intended to capture B's conduct as a violation. To rectify this problem, the bill changes the statute's language to require that the conduct must be "substantially motivated by hostility toward the race, sex, gender identity, religion," etc. of the person against whom the conduct is targeted. The revised language is taken directly from another statute, RSA 651:6, I(f), which has been in effect since 2005 and provides for enhanced sentences for persons who commit offenses motivated by sexual, racial, gender, etc. hatred. As amended, the bill also adds language indicating that, with respect to threatened (as opposed to actual) conduct – the kind of conduct/speech where First Amendment rights are most likely to be implicated – the threat must be imminent in order to trigger liability. Once again, the purpose is to ensure that the right to freedom of speech is not violated by statements that may be offensive or obnoxious, but which do not portend an intent to inflict actual harm on another person in the near future. Where such imminence is lacking, it is much more likely that the statements made involve a form of "pure speech" that does not represent a serious intention to actually carry out the threatened behavior. Lastly, the amendment replaces the language of section II of RSA 354-B:1. At present, this section provides, "It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere or attempt to interfere with the rights secured by this chapter." The assistant attorney general acknowledged that this section too could be subject to varying interpretations. The problem here is that there is no requirement that the means used to "interfere" with the statutory rights be unlawful. Thus, it is entirely possible that this section could be construed to capture conduct that is perfectly lawful, but that has the effect of interfering with the actions of another person exercising his constitutional rights. For example, if one group of people is loudly protesting against racial discrimination and another group organizes a counter-protest close by to loudly oppose affirmative action, could this section of the statute be invoked to hold one group liable for "interfering" with the activities of the other group? The answer is anybody's guess under the current wording of the law. To correct this problem, the amendment replaces the current language with language stating that "nothing in RSA chapter 354-B shall be construed to prohibit any conduct or speech that is protected under the United States Constitution or the New Hampshire Constitution." The majority of the Committee believes that these changes afford ample protection against harmful biased-motivated conduct, while also ensuring that the First Amendment rights of all persons are safeguarded. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Paul Berch for the **Minority** of Judiciary. This bill changes the standard for enforcement of civil rights in New Hampshire by requiring that prohibited conduct be substantially motivated by hostility toward a targeted individual's protected characteristics. This represents a significant departure from existing law, which does not require proof of hostility or ill will in order to establish discrimination. The US Supreme Court has made clear in cases such as *Feeney* and *Bostock* that discriminatory intent and causation do not depend on evidence of personal hostility or animus in the ordinary sense. The Office of the Attorney General, which is responsible for enforcing the state's civil rights laws, testified that this change would make enforcement more difficult and recommended that the bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. That position was consistent with the testimony of every witness and organization that appeared before the committee, as well as the overwhelming majority of individuals who submitted testimony or opinions online. The minority fully agrees with the Attorney General and the public. The minority also believes that this bill raises serious constitutional concerns as to vagueness. The Supreme Court has invalidated laws that fail to give ordinary people fair notice of what is prohibited or that invite arbitrary application. Terms like "substantially" and "hostility" are inherently subjective and undefined, leaving courts and juries to speculate about a person's internal motivations. That is precisely the kind of indeterminacy the Constitution forbids. This bill would undermine enforcement of civil rights laws by eliminating well-established mixed-motive liability. Discrimination often operates through multiple motives, implicit bias, or structural factors—not overt hostility. By requiring proof that hostility is a substantial motivating factor, the bill would exclude a wide range of real-world discrimination that current law properly reaches. The minority finds that this bill is both legally vulnerable and a significant step backward in protecting civil rights in New Hampshire. The result is a law that is weaker in force, uncertain in application, and far easier to evade. For these reasons, the bill raises concerns about its impact on the effectiveness, clarity, and consistency of civil rights enforcement in New Hampshire. The minority, consistent with the recommendation of the Attorney General and virtually unanimous public opposition, recommends this bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate.

Majority Amendment (1369h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Civil Rights Act; Civil Rights Enforcement. Amend RSA 354-B:1 to read as follows:
354-B:1 Civil Rights Enforcement.

I. All persons have the right to engage in lawful activities and to exercise and enjoy the rights secured by the United States and New Hampshire Constitutions and the laws of the United States and New Hampshire without being subject to actual or threatened physical force or violence against them or any other person or by actual or threatened damage to or trespass on property when such actual or threatened conduct is **substantially** motivated by **hostility toward the** race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, or disability **of the person who is the target of the aforesaid activity**. "Threatened physical force" and "threatened damage to or trespass on property" is a communication, by physical conduct or by declaration, of an intent to **imminently** inflict harm on a person or a person's property by some unlawful act with a purpose to terrorize or coerce.

II. ~~[It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere or attempt to interfere with the rights secured by this chapter.]~~ ***Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit any conduct or speech that is protected under the United States Constitution or the New Hampshire constitution.***

2026-1369h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes the standard for civil rights enforcement by requiring that prohibited conduct be substantially motivated by hostility toward the victim's protected characteristics. This bill further provides that the chapter shall not be construed to prohibit constitutionally protected conduct or speech.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

On a division vote, with 178 members having voted in the affirmative, and 150 in the negative, the amendment was adopted.

Rep. Lynn offered floor amendment (1572h).

Floor Amendment (1572h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Civil Rights Act; Civil Rights Enforcement. RSA 354-B:1 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:
354-B:1 Civil Rights Enforcement.

I.(a) Any person who, motivated in whole or in part by hostility, including but not limited to animus, bias, or prejudice, toward the race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, or disability of the person, group, or organization directly or indirectly targeted by the unlawful act, or the affiliation or association of the person, group, or organization directly or indirectly targeted by the unlawful act with a person or people of a certain race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, or disability, knowingly commits one of the following unlawful acts shall be subject to civil liability under RSA 354-B:2 and to the remedies provided in RSA 354-B:3 and RSA 354-B:4:

- (1) Using unprivileged force against another;
- (2) Committing an act of violence against another;
- (3) Causing damage to or trespassing on the property of another; or
- (4) Threatening to commit any of the acts listed above.

(b) In this section, “threatening to commit” means the communication, by physical conduct or by declaration, of an intent to inflict harm or damage to person or property that, taken in the context of surrounding circumstances, would convey to a reasonable person that the actor has the apparent ability to carry out the threat and the real possibility that such harm or damage may occur.

II. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit any conduct or speech that is protected under the United States Constitution or the New Hampshire constitution.

III. It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere or attempt to interfere with the rights secured by this chapter.

2026-1572h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes the standard for civil rights enforcement.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1572h).

Rep. Lynn spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 329 members having voted in the affirmative, and 9 in the negative, the amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Majority committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to third reading.

SB 627-FN, (New Title) relative to toll rate adjustments and periodic inflation-based toll reviews for the New Hampshire turnpike system to support the 2027-2036 ten-year transportation plan. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Martin Jack for Public Works and Highways. The bill provides for a toll increase to fund turnpike projects that were deleted from the Ten-Year Transportation Plan due to insufficient turnpike revenue. Like the budget, the Ten-Year Plan must be balanced. The increase is expected to raise \$60 million per year. This would fund projects in Nashua, Merrimack, Bedford, Manchester, Bow, and Concord that improve hazardous merges and reduce congestion, fuel usage, and trip delays. Experience with I-93 shows that economic and housing development follows after highway improvements. It also frees \$85 million in federal highway aid that would be reallocated to other projects if this bill passes. The increase is structured so that holders of funded New Hampshire EZ-Pass transponders pay exactly the current rates; the increase falls on other drivers. Surrounding states already have the same in-state discount structure in place. All funds raised by toll collection go toward operation, maintenance, and improvement of the turnpike system; no funds are diverted elsewhere. Toll rates have not been increased since 2009, some ramp tolls have been removed, construction cost is increasing dramatically, and collection has stagnated since COVID, so that improvement funding is very limited. Even with the increase, New Hampshire has the lowest toll rates of any EZ-Pass agency. The bill provides that a measure of inflation be taken every two years, but leaves it to the existing process to adjust future rates. In future Ten-Year Transportation Plans, other needed turnpike improvements can be funded and increased spending will provide a stable supply of toll credits for Federal highway aid matching funds. There was no public hearing testimony opposing the bill. Vote 15-0.

Amendment (1352h)

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Tolls. Amend RSA 237:9 to read as follows:

I. The commissioner of transportation, with the approval of the governor and council, shall establish toll rates and other charges for use of the New Hampshire turnpike system or any part of the right-of-way and other property acquired in connection therewith. The governor and council shall approve or reject the commissioner’s proposed toll rates and other charges within 90 days of receiving them. The tolls collected shall be deposited with the state treasurer who shall keep the same in a separate account to be used exclusively for purposes of the New Hampshire turnpike system including, without limitation, the operating expenses, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of the New Hampshire turnpike system. All operating expenses and maintenance costs shall be paid from said account. From the balance remaining after the payment of operating expenses and maintenance costs, there shall be paid the interest and principal on the bonds issued to finance the system. No part of such revenues shall, by transfer of funds or otherwise, be diverted to any other purpose whatsoever. Fourteen days previous to the time any interest or principal is payable, on any general obligation bonds issued to finance the system, the state treasurer shall examine the existing balance and, except as otherwise provided in RSA 237:10, if such balance is insufficient to make the payment, then he **or she** shall notify the governor who shall immediately draw his **or her** warrant on the highway fund to

cover any deficit and if the funds in both of the above accounts are insufficient, the governor shall draw his ***or her*** warrant upon the state's general fund to the amount necessary to meet the payments. Any funds paid out from the state's highway fund or general fund for the above purposes shall be reimbursed from the collection of tolls as soon as such funds are available. Any funds that have been or may be expended for any portion of the system by the department of transportation shall be repaid to said department when, in the opinion of the governor and council, sufficient funds are available. Any excess income may be used for further system extensions in accordance with RSA 237:5, II(m). No provision of this chapter shall constitute a covenant with bondholders with respect to the charging, collection or disposition of tolls.

II. Notwithstanding paragraph I, RSA 237:24, and any other provision of law to the contrary, to support the turnpike projects included in the 2027-2036 ten year transportation plan and to cover associated operating expenses and maintenance costs for the central New Hampshire turnpike, the eastern New Hampshire turnpike, and the New Hampshire turnpike system, the toll rates for all cash transactions and for vehicles using the New Hampshire electronic toll system not listed on a funded New Hampshire E-Z Pass account shall be increased based on the toll plaza and vehicle classification. For purposes of this section, "class" shall mean the classification of vehicles by type, height, number of axles, and dual tires established by the commissioner of transportation in rules adopted under RSA 541-A. Beginning January 1, 2027, the toll rates shall be as follows:

(a) Hooksett Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$2.00***
- (2) Class 2: \$2.25***
- (3) Class 3: \$2.50***
- (4) Class 4: \$2.75***
- (5) Class 5: \$4.00***
- (6) Class 6: \$4.50***
- (7) Class 7: \$5.00***
- (8) Class 8: \$5.50***
- (9) Class 9: \$6.00***
- (10) Class 10: \$6.50***
- (11) Class 11: \$7.00***
- (12) Class 12: \$ 7.50***

(b) Hooksett Ramp:

- (1) Class 1: \$1.00***
- (2) Class 2: \$1.25***
- (3) Class 3: \$1.50***
- (4) Class 4: \$1.75***
- (5) Class 5: \$2.00***
- (6) Class 6: \$2.50***
- (7) Class 7: \$3.00***
- (8) Class 8: \$3.50***
- (9) Class 9: \$4.00***
- (10) Class 10: \$4.50***
- (11) Class 11: \$5.00***
- (12) Class 12: \$5.50***

(c) Bedford Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$2.00***
- (2) Class 2: \$2.25***
- (3) Class 3: \$2.50***
- (4) Class 4: \$2.75***
- (5) Class 5: \$4.00***
- (6) Class 6: \$4.50***
- (7) Class 7: \$5.00***
- (8) Class 8: \$5.50***
- (9) Class 9: \$6.00***
- (10) Class 10: \$6.50***
- (11) Class 11: \$7.00***
- (12) Class 12: \$7.50***

(d) Hampton Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$4.00***
- (2) Class 2: \$4.25***
- (3) Class 3: \$4.50***

- (4) *Class 4: \$4.75*
- (5) *Class 5: \$8.00*
- (6) *Class 6: \$8.50*
- (7) *Class 7: \$9.00*
- (8) *Class 8: \$9.50*
- (9) *Class 9: \$10.00*
- (10) *Class 10: \$10.50*
- (11) *Class 11: \$11.00*
- (12) *Class 12: \$11.50*

(e) Hampton Side:

- (1) *Class 1: \$1.50*
- (2) *Class 2: \$1.75*
- (3) *Class 3: \$2.00*
- (4) *Class 4: \$2.25*
- (5) *Class 5: \$3.00*
- (6) *Class 6: \$3.50*
- (7) *Class 7: \$4.00*
- (8) *Class 8: \$4.50*
- (9) *Class 9: \$5.00*
- (10) *Class 10: \$5.50*
- (11) *Class 11: \$6.00*
- (12) *Class 12: \$6.50*

(f) Dover:

- (1) *Class 1: \$1.50*
- (2) *Class 2: \$1.75*
- (3) *Class 3: \$2.00*
- (4) *Class 4: \$2.25*
- (5) *Class 5: \$3.00*
- (6) *Class 6: \$3.50*
- (7) *Class 7: \$4.00*
- (8) *Class 8: \$4.50*
- (9) *Class 9: \$5.00*
- (10) *Class 10: \$5.50*
- (11) *Class 11: \$6.00*
- (12) *Class 12: \$6.50*

(g) Rochester:

- (1) *Class 1: \$1.50*
- (2) *Class 2: \$1.75*
- (3) *Class 3: \$2.00*
- (4) *Class 4: \$2.25*
- (5) *Class 5: \$3.00*
- (6) *Class 6: \$3.50*
- (7) *Class 7: \$4.00*
- (8) *Class 8: \$4.50*
- (9) *Class 9: \$5.00*
- (10) *Class 10: \$5.50*
- (11) *Class 11: \$6.00*
- (12) *Class 12: \$6.50*

III. Notwithstanding paragraph I, RSA 237:24, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the toll rates for vehicles listed on a funded New Hampshire E-Z Pass account using the New Hampshire electronic toll collection shall be based on toll plaza and vehicle classification, where "class" has the same meaning as in paragraph II. Beginning January 1, 2027, the minimum toll rates shall be as follows:

(a) Hooksett Main:

- (1) *Class 1: \$0.70*
- (2) *Class 2: \$0.88*
- (3) *Class 3: \$1.05*
- (4) *Class 4: \$1.23*
- (5) *Class 5: \$1.80*
- (6) *Class 6: \$2.25*

- (7) *Class 7: \$2.70*
- (8) *Class 8: \$3.15*
- (9) *Class 9: \$3.60*
- (10) *Class 10: \$4.05*
- (11) *Class 11: \$4.50*
- (12) *Class 12: \$4.95*
- (b) *Hooksett Ramp:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$0.35*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$0.53*
 - (3) *Class 3: \$0.70*
 - (4) *Class 4: \$0.88*
 - (5) *Class 5: \$0.90*
 - (6) *Class 6: \$1.35*
 - (7) *Class 7: \$1.80*
 - (8) *Class 8: \$2.25*
 - (9) *Class 9: \$2.70*
 - (10) *Class 10: \$3.15*
 - (11) *Class 11: \$3.60*
 - (12) *Class 12: \$4.05*
- (c) *Bedford Main:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$0.70*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$0.88*
 - (3) *Class 3: \$1.05*
 - (4) *Class 4: \$1.23*
 - (5) *Class 5: \$1.80*
 - (6) *Class 6: \$2.25*
 - (7) *Class 7: \$2.70*
 - (8) *Class 8: \$3.15*
 - (9) *Class 9: \$3.60*
 - (10) *Class 10: \$4.05*
 - (11) *Class 11: \$4.50*
 - (12) *Class 12: \$4.95*
- (d) *Hampton Main:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$1.40*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$1.58*
 - (3) *Class 3: \$1.75*
 - (4) *Class 4: \$1.93*
 - (5) *Class 5: \$3.60*
 - (6) *Class 6: \$4.05*
 - (7) *Class 7: \$4.50*
 - (8) *Class 8: \$4.95*
 - (9) *Class 9: \$5.40*
 - (10) *Class 10: \$5.85*
 - (11) *Class 11: \$6.30*
 - (12) *Class 12: \$6.75*
- (e) *Hampton Side:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$0.53*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$0.70*
 - (3) *Class 3: \$0.88*
 - (4) *Class 4: \$1.05*
 - (5) *Class 5: \$1.35*
 - (6) *Class 6: \$1.80*
 - (7) *Class 7: \$2.25*
 - (8) *Class 8: \$2.70*
 - (9) *Class 9: \$3.15*
 - (10) *Class 10: \$3.60*
 - (11) *Class 11: \$4.05*
 - (12) *Class 12: \$4.50*
- (f) *Dover:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$0.53*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$0.70*

- (3) *Class 3: \$0.88*
- (4) *Class 4: \$1.05*
- (5) *Class 5: \$1.35*
- (6) *Class 6: \$1.80*
- (7) *Class 7: \$2.25*
- (8) *Class 8: \$2.70*
- (9) *Class 9: \$3.15*
- (10) *Class 10: \$3.60*
- (11) *Class 11: \$4.05*
- (12) *Class 12: \$4.50*
- (g) *Rochester:*
 - (1) *Class 1: \$0.53*
 - (2) *Class 2: \$0.70*
 - (3) *Class 3: \$0.88*
 - (4) *Class 4: \$1.05*
 - (5) *Class 5: \$1.35*
 - (6) *Class 6: \$1.80*
 - (7) *Class 7: \$2.25*
 - (8) *Class 8: \$2.70*
 - (9) *Class 9: \$3.15*
 - (10) *Class 10: \$3.60*
 - (11) *Class 11: \$4.05*
 - (12) *Class 12: \$4.50*

2 Agency Directive; Department of Transportation; New Hampshire E-Z Pass Transponder. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for a period of 210 days, beginning upon the effective date of this section, the department of transportation shall issue, at no cost, a New Hampshire E-Z Pass transponder to anyone who opens or currently maintains a funded New Hampshire E-Z Pass account, if so requested by the new or current New Hampshire E-Z Pass holder.

3 Repeal. RSA 237:11, V, relative to the E-Z Pass discount on established tolls on any of the New Hampshire turnpike system, is repealed.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect December 1, 2026.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

The committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the committee on Ways and Means.

SB 450-FN, relative to a state parks pass pilot program for recovery centers and community mental health centers. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Ron Dunn for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. The majority of the committee is in favor of the intent of this bill; however, this pilot program can be enacted without this legislation. For these reasons, the majority of the committee recommends this bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate. Vote 12-2. Rep. Suzanne Vail for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill establishes a limited, three-year pilot program enabling the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to provide a state park pass to New Hampshire's 10 community mental health centers, with reporting requirements to evaluate outcomes. The program is fully funded by grants and carries no cost to New Hampshire State Parks. The minority asserts that statutory authority is needed to implement such a program, as discretionary action is insufficient to ensure consistent and equitable access. The minority also believes that grants for this low-cost pilot program would be for as little as the cost of 10 passes, providing a controlled and limited approach that does not alter the underlying fee structure. The bill's requirement to report back to the legislature creates a mechanism to evaluate participation, outcomes, and administrative impact before any consideration of continuation. Without the bill, the pilot would not necessarily reflect the results of collaboration that grant writers for community mental health centers need. The connection between access to nature and improved mental health outcomes is well-established in clinical literature. Removing financial and logistical barriers to state park access for individuals receiving services through community mental health centers is a modest approach that complements existing treatment without creating a clinical mandate or significant new cost burden. While the department may have the ability to offer passes administratively, statutory authorization ensures that the program is implemented uniformly across the state and not limited to uneven or ad hoc efforts. For these reasons, the minority finds that this bill is a targeted and accountable approach to expanding access to state parks in support of mental health.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Majority committee report was adopted.

SB 449-FN, (New Title) relative to relative to the participation of large customer-generators in net metering and relative to energy storage in connection with net metering. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill mirrors SB 106 from 2025, a bill the House Indefinitely Postponed. It allows a growth in net metering up to 5MW for a new class of electricity user called an “industrial host.” This increase in the net metering cap exposes NH ratepayers to millions of dollars of increased costs. In Maine, for example, an increase in that cap imposed \$250 million in new costs on that state’s ratepayers in 2025. In addition, this bill would require all ratepayers to shoulder these costs, not just the commercial/industrial users who would directly benefit, which the majority defines as corporate welfare. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Kat McGhee for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. Industrial net metering with storage helps New Hampshire business owners manage their enormous energy costs, while lowering demand/load on the system; demand side efforts benefit all electric customers and keep energy dollars in the state. This bill has been brought forth every year, for several years and is supported by many large businesses who want to invest in local energy infrastructure. The Business and Industry Association (BIA) is concerned that the House keeps preventing this commonsense policy from passing into law because energy costs are becoming the deciding factor in whether businesses opt to remain in the state. The minority amendment preserves the storage language just passed in HB 1718; passing this bill, as is, will rewrite the storage language the House wants in statute.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. D. Thomas spoke in favor.

Rep. Caplan spoke against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 181 - NAYS 158

YEAS - 181

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Comtois, Barbara
Terry, Paul

Freeman, Lisa
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
MacDonald, John

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

CHESHIRE

Hunt, John
Qualey, James

Karasinski, Sly
Rhodes, Jennifer

Mattson, Rita
Thackston, Dick

Nalevanko, Rich

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
King, Seth

Korzen, Lori
Tierney, James

Murphy, Michael
Tremblay, Marc

GRAFTON

Barton, Joseph
Franz, Linda

Beaulier, Calvin
Ladd, Rick

Berezhny, Lex
Louis, Darrell

Bjelobrk, Marie Louise
McFarlane, Donald

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Colcombe, Riché
Kelley, Diane
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kofalt, Jim
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Presa, Adam
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Mannion, Tom

Boyd, Bill
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Erf, Keith
Giasson, Henry
Labrie, Brian
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Proulx, Mark
Schneller, John
Slottje, Jeremy
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Corcoran, Travis
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Gould, Linda
Lascelles, Richard
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Prout, Andrew
Scully, Kevin
Suiter, John
Wherry, Robert

Berry, Ross
Creighton, James
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Kesselring, Steven
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Post, Lisa
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Tenczar, Jeffrey

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
McGuire, Dan

Aures, Cyril
Devold, Ricky

Aylward, Deborah
Hill, Gregory

McGuire, Carol
Leavitt, John

Mehegan, Peter
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

Moffett, Michael
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

Pitaro, Matthew
See, Alvin

Polozov, Yuri
Walsh, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Drago, Mike
Guthrie, Joseph
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Layon, Erica
Markell, Jay
Melvin, Charles
Brown, Pam
Potucek, John
Selby, Donald
Sytek, John
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Khan, Aboul
Litchfield, Melissa
McDonnell, Valerie
Milz, David
Perez, Kristine
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Soti, Julius
Dolan, Tom
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Kuttab, Katelyn
Love, David
McGrath, Linda
Nadeau, Brian
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tripp, Richard
Vose, Michael

Bryer, Scott
Donnelly, Tanya
Ford, Mary
Janigian, John
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McMahon, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Porcelli, Susan
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Tudor, Paul
MacDonald, Wayne

STRAFFORD

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Potenza, Kelley

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Walker, David

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

SULLIVAN

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy
Spilsbury, Walter

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

Hemingway, Wayne
Smith, Steven

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Coker, Matthew

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
Woodcock, Stephen

Paige, David

McAleer, Chris

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Murphy, Denis
Jones, Philip
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Gruber, James
Newell, Jodi

Fox, Dru
Jacobs, Samantha
O'Rorke, Terri

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Rockmore, Ellen

Baldwin, Heather
Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Spahr, Terry

Bolton, Bill
Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Muirhead, Russell
Stringham, Jerry

Cormen, Thomas
Sullivan, Jared
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Alissandra
Chourasia, Manoj
Dargie, Paul
Gregg, Alicia
Herbert, Christopher
Kluger, Lee Ann
Leishman, Peter
Murray, Megan
Murphy, Nancy
Newman, Ray
Ryan, Linda
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wheeler, Jonah

Beauchemin, Paige
Chretien, Suzanne
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Jack, Martin
Foss, Loren
Lloyd, Christal
MacKenzie, Mark
Petrigno, Peter
Raymond, Heather
Newman, Sue
Staub, Kathy
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Bergeron, Dan
Cornell, Patricia
Foss, Lily
Harriott-Gathright, Linda
Judy, Jean
Leapley, Nicole
Long, Patrick
Manohar, Sanjeev
Plamondon, Marc
Rombeau, Catherine
Salvi, Santosh
Swanson, Dale
Dolan, William

Booras, Efstathia
Darby, Will
Georges, Mary
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
LeClerc, Daniel
Howard, Molly
McGhee, Kat
Preece, David
Rung, Rosemarie
Seibert, Christine
Tellez, Trinidad
Thomas, Wendy

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Ebel, Karen
Lane, Connie
Payeur, Stephanie
Snodgrass, Jim

Caplan, Tony
Gallager, Eric
Luneau, David
Richards, Beth
Wallner, Mary Jane

Colby, Eleana
Gibbs, Merryl
Hall, Muriel
Roesener, James
Woods, Gary

Kelly, Eileen
Hicks, Matthew
Newsom, James
Schamberg, Thomas

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Edgar, Michael
Knab, Allison
Meuse, David
Scherr, Buzz
Vallone, Mark

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Paige, Mark
Muns, Chris
Simpson, Alexis
Ward, Gerald

Cahill, Michael
Grote, Jaci
Maggiore, Jim
Raynolds, Ned
Sorensen, Carrie
Weinstein, Toni

de Vries, Erica
Haskins, Linda
Manos, Zoe
Read, Ellen
Turer, Eric

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik
Smith, Marjorie
Southworth, Thomas

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Miller, Seth
Stone, John

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Laroche, John
Schmidt, Peter
Wade, Alice

Butler, Billie
Horrigan, Timothy
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren
Wall, Janet

SULLIVAN

Sullivan, Brian

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

SB 538-FN, extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill extends the time window for guaranteed benefits from the net metering program to assist municipalities in obtaining financing for renewable energy projects. Currently, the statutory limit for net metering is capped after 2040. This bill extends that cap to 15 years beyond the date at which such a system became active if it begins operation on or before this legislation has taken effect. Since 15-year financing is an industry norm for projects backed by net metering, the committee amendment changed the original bill's 20-year limit to 15 to reduce ratepayer exposure to future net metering costs. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (1453h)

Amend RSA 362-A:9, II-a as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II-a. Each electric distribution utility shall make available alternative tariffs for net metering to eligible customer-generators in accordance with Order No. 26,029 dated June 23, 2017, and the net metering rules adopted by the commission. Any eligible customer-generator that has submitted an interconnection application to a distribution utility on or before the effective date of this paragraph and that is used to offset the electricity requirements of a group consisting exclusively of one or more customers who are political subdivisions that first receive compensation under an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff shall remain eligible to receive that tariff for 15 years from the first day on which compensation is received.

2026-1453h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes long-term eligibility for certain customer-generators to receive net energy metering compensation under alternative tariffs approved by the public utilities commission.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Rep. Vose offered floor amendment (1578h).

Floor Amendment (1578h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 New Paragraph; Net Metering; Municipal Energy Project Material Standards. Amend RSA 362-A:9 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. Each electric distribution utility shall make available alternative tariffs for net metering to eligible customer-generators in accordance with Order No. 26,029, dated June 23, 2017, and the net metering rules adopted by the commission. Any eligible customer-generator that has submitted an interconnection application to a distribution utility on or before the effective date of this paragraph and that is used to offset the electricity requirements of a group consisting exclusively of one or more customers who are political subdivisions that first receive compensation under an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff shall remain eligible to receive that tariff for the longer of 15 years from the first year in which compensation is received, or until December 31, 2040.

The question now being adoption of floor amendment (1578h).

Rep. Vose spoke in favor.

The floor amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment. The committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the committee on Finance.

SB 540-FN, relative to portable solar generation devices. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Michael Vose for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill attempts to provide important safeguards concerning a new class of products called balcony solar systems. These systems are widely available for purchase and can supply 1,200 watts of electricity via a convenient attachment to a home's electrical circuits by simply plugging them into a wall outlet. They are popular in Europe where residential wiring codes are more robust than here in the US. In this country, residential wiring only permits one-way electricity flow. That means these balcony solar systems violate National Electrical Code 705. Nevertheless, nothing prevents anyone from buying one of these systems, plugging it in, and potentially causing a circuit overload and possible fire. The bill as amended requires that NH require such systems to be certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory to meet nationally-recognized safety standards. The bill also requires the state Department of Energy to provide information on its website to help users understand the risks of buying and operating such a system. Vote 16-1. Rep. Michael Harrington for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. Though well intentioned, this bill accomplishes almost nothing. It creates a bunch of rules but provides no mechanism for educating the public about the rules or any mechanism for enforcing them. Plug in solar generators can be purchased over the Internet from other states and even other countries. None of these locations will have any knowledge of NH law requiring that the system be certified by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory to meet nationally-recognized safety standards. The bill also includes a requirement that only one plug in solar generator with a maximum inverter output of 1,200 watts be allowed per metered customer. Someone buying the generator over the Internet will have no idea that this requirement exists. Of course, this applies to all aspects of the bill. Rather than creating new feel-good regulations that accomplish nothing, an education program to inform potential buyers of plug in solar about safety considerations would be beneficial. An insert in electric bills listing the safety considerations, while not a perfect solution, would be step in the right direction.

Majority Amendment (1452h)

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to plug-in solar generation systems.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Paragraphs; Definitions. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraphs:

IV-a. "Plug-in solar generation system" means a movable photovoltaic generation system intended to exclusively offset a portion of a customer's onsite electric consumption that complies with national standards for interconnection and interoperability of distributed energy resources and connects to a building's electrical system through a receptacle or other non-permanent wiring connection.

2 New Section; Plug-In Solar Generation Systems; Exemptions; Requirements. Amend RSA 362-A by inserting after section 9 the following new section:

362-A:10 Plug-in Solar Generation Systems; Exemptions; Requirements.

I. Plug-in solar generation systems shall be certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to meet nationally recognized safety standards applicable to distributed energy resources and plug-in solar generation systems.

II. The applicable electric distribution utility may develop a method for the customer to inform the electric distribution utility of the wattage of the system at the customer's service address subsequent to installation. Such information shall be for notification purposes only.

III. An electric distribution utility shall not require a customer using a compliant plug-in solar generation system to:

- (a) Obtain electric distribution utility approval before installing or using the system;
- (b) Complete an interconnection review or obtain an executed interconnection agreement;
- (c) Pay any fee related to the system, except any charges the system incurs through its use; or
- (d) Install additional electric distribution utility-specified controls or equipment beyond those integrated into the system.

IV. Each metered customer shall be allowed a maximum of one plug-in solar generation system with a maximum inverter output of 1,200 watts AC.

V. The department of energy shall establish and maintain a page on its website with relevant information for consumers regarding plug-in solar generation systems, including meter compatibility at the state's various distribution utilities, potential impacts on electric billing, applicable safety standards and considerations, and any other information the department determines appropriate. Such information shall include notice that connecting unlisted systems or connecting systems in a manner not in accordance with the state building code or manufacturer instructions may affect a customer's homeowners or renters insurance coverage.

3 New Section; Plug-In Solar Generation Systems. Amend RSA 155-A by inserting after section 14 the following new section:

155-A:15 Plug-In Solar Generation Systems.

I. The building code review board shall amend the state building code to address the building and the building's electrical system when a plug-in solar generation system is used.

II. Each plug-in solar generation system shall be installed and operated in accordance with the state building code and manufacturer instructions.

4 New Section; Liability. Amend RSA 374 by inserting after section 1-a the following new section:

374:1-b Liability for Plug-In Solar Generation Systems. An electric distribution utility shall not be liable for damage, injury, or compensation or charges arising from a plug-in solar generation system installed or used by a customer. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any cause of action against the manufacturer, installer, or owner of a plug-in solar generation system.

5 Rulemaking; Department of Energy; Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9, X(a) to read as follows:

(a) Establish reasonable interconnection requirements for safety, reliability, and power quality as it determines the public interest requires. Such rules shall not exceed applicable test standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) [or], Underwriters Laboratory (UL), *or the Institute of Electrical and Electronics, Inc. (IEEE)*; and

6 Contingency. RSA 155-A:15, as inserted by section 3 of this act, shall take effect on the date the commissioner of the department of energy certifies to the director of the office of legislative services and the secretary of state that a nationally recognized standard exists authorizing plug-in solar systems to be safely connected to a building's electrical system.

7 Effective Date.

I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 6 of this act.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-1452h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Defines "plugin solar generation system," allows each metered customer one such system with a maximum inverter output of 1,200 watts AC, and exempts compliant systems from utility approval, interconnection review, additional utilityspecified equipment, or related fees.

II. Requires plug-in solar generation systems to be certified to applicable national safety standards and to be installed and operated in accordance with the state building code and manufacturer instructions, and directs the building code review board to amend the state building code once nationally recognized standards for plug-in systems exist.

III. Authorizes the department of energy to adopt rules consistent with ANSI, UL, and IEEE standards, requires the department to maintain consumer information on its website regarding plug-in solar generation systems, and clarifies that electric distribution utilities are not liable for damages arising from customerin-stalled systems.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Rep. Harrington spoke against.

Rep. McGhee spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 293 members having voted in the affirmative, and 43 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted and the Speaker referred the bill to the committee on Finance.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Weyler, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of :

SB 494-FN, relative to the state fire code, fire incident reporting and investigations, and the duties of the state fire marshal.

SB 586-FN, requiring chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and requiring the results of such audits to be made available to the public.

SB 429-FN-A, relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor and relative to the parental bill of rights concerning the creation of student media recordings.

SB 540-FN, relative to plug-in solar generation systems.

SB 549-FN, requiring certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creating reporting requirements for such entities.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Roy, Chairman of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of **SB 594-FN**, eliminating the use of agitators in instances where temporary docks have been removed from bodies of water.

SB 589-FN, (New Title) relative to port electrification, microgrid development, and cybersecurity standards for energy and water systems. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Kat McGhee for Science, Technology and Energy. This critical infrastructure bill covers essential areas of security and technology, including port electrification, cyber security, micro-grids, and water systems. The committee agreed on passage of this bill, which was championed by the Department of Environmental Services to help them complete their ongoing work; the bill required two minor changes needed to make the statutory language work and those were adopted in the committee amendment. Vote 18-0.

Amendment (1412h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 5 with the following:

5 Cybersecurity and Electric Grid Interconnection Guidelines.

I. Within 120 days of the effective date of this section, the department of energy shall initiate a proceeding, in consultation as deemed necessary with the governor's advisor for utility critical infrastructure cybersecurity, the managing director of the New England Utility Cybersecurity Integration Collaborative, distributed energy resources businesses, electric distribution utilities, and regional/federal transmission authorities, to determine:

(a) The need for guidelines or standards for cybersecurity standards for distributed energy generation and related devices.

(b) The proper venue for promulgation of those guidelines or standards, including, but not limited to rulemaking, statutory changes, and including guidelines or standards within existing procedures and filings.

II. Such new guidelines or standards shall not apply to generation and related devices licensed or regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

II. The department shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than one year after initiating the study. The report shall include recommendations for statutory changes, rulemaking, or other actions as needed. The department shall submit copies of the report to the governor, senate president, speaker of the house, and chairs of senate and house energy policy committees.

The question being adoption of the majority committee amendment.

Majority committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Majority committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to third reading.

SB 591-FN, allowing utility companies to own or build generation facilities. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. JD Bernardy for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill permits electric utilities to invest in distributed energy generation up to 10% of the utility's total distribution peak in megawatts (MW). Distributed energy units may not exceed five MW in size and are not regulated by the Independent System Operator New England (ISO-NE); they are connected to the utility's local distribution system. Investment in micro-nuclear, small scale natural gas/propane, solar, wind, biomass, hydro, and battery technology are all included. Battery capacity is not limited to the 10% investment threshold. Any investment is subject to the Public Utility Commission's determination that the benefits outweigh the costs borne by ratepayers. Vote 11-7. Rep. Thomas Cormen for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. Although the minority fully supports increasing distributed electric generation in the state, increasing the limit on utility-owned generation from six percent of peak generation to 10 percent is not the way to go. When we restructured three decades ago, we wanted to reduce costs on the backs of ratepayers due to capital costs incurred by the utilities. Utilities get a guaranteed rate of return on what they build, and so if costs rise to the point that they exceed the benefits, the ratepayers are on the hook for these stranded costs. Restructuring was also intended to create a competitive market for power generation. Having one class of power generator that is guaranteed to achieve a rate of return on investment, while all the others must compete against them, distorts what should be a fair and competitive market. Finally, the utilities are well below the current limit of six percent, with only one distributed generation facility having been built in the state so far. Let's see the utilities build more distributed generation and approach the six percent limit before we consider raising that limit.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. Reynolds spoke against.

Rep. Bernardy spoke in favor.

On a division vote, with 180 members having voted in the affirmative, and 151 in the negative, the majority committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to third reading.

REFERRAL DECLINED

Rep. Janigian, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, under the provisions of House Rule 47 (f), declined the referral of:

SB 512-FN, relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction.

SB 590-FN, relative to electric aggregation plans.

SB 610-FN, allowing the insurance commissioner to approve innovative short or long-term care policies.

SB 505-FN, relative to applications for guide licenses and repealing the fee for temporary registration of nonresidents relative to OHRVs.

SB 599-FN, relative to the renewable energy fund. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEX-PEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. John Schneller for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill is a technical fiscal cleanup that restores up to \$1 million to the Department of Energy for commercial programs and \$1 million for administration including funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Innovation while sweeping surplus money from the Renewable Energy Fund to the General Fund as intended in HB 2 (2025). This bill will restore \$7 million to the state budget adopted last year. Vote 10-8.

Rep. Lucius Parshall for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) is funded by Alternative Compliance Payments levied on utilities when they fail to procure sufficient Renewable Energy Certificates. This fee has typically been passed onto ratepayers to encourage the adoption of renewable energy. With passage of this bill, revenue from the REF will now be rerouted into the General Fund. According to legal precedence, these fees will be unconstitutionally converted into a tax. Lawyers were consulted for their legal opinion on the constitutionality of this diversion of monies, and while they have disagreed, the creation of this new tax clearly puts New Hampshire at risk of multiple lawsuits.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass.

Rep. McGhee offered floor amendment (1608h).

Floor Amendment (1608h)

Amend RSA 362-F:10, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This nonlapsing special fund shall be continually appropriated to the department of energy to be expended in accordance with this section; provided that at the start of the ~~[period in which there is no adopted state operating budget]~~ ***budget adoption process***, the department of energy ~~[shall in a timely manner seek]~~ ***seeks*** the ***timely*** approval of the fiscal committee of the general court to continue ~~[using]~~ ***appropriating*** moneys from the renewable energy fund to support renewable energy ~~[rebate and grant]~~ programs ~~[in order]~~ to ensure there are no interruptions ~~[to the programs]~~. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All payments to be made under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any ~~[remaining moneys]~~ ***compliance payment*** paid into the fund under paragraph II of this section, ~~[excluding class II moneys;]~~ shall be ***first*** used ~~[by the department of energy to support thermal and electrical renewable energy initiatives]~~ ***for department of energy administrative costs***, including ***funding for*** the office of energy innovation, ***for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 per fiscal year. For the renewable energy fund collections period of July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2027, an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 annually is allocated to support renewable energy initiatives, pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, VIII. Remaining monies shall be transferred to the general fund to address budget assumptions that included these dedicated funds in the budget biennium ending June 30, 2027.*** Class II moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire. All initiatives supported out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the department of energy as deemed necessary. All fund moneys including those from class II may be used to administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the department of energy due to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I production.

2026-1608h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires that remaining moneys from electricity provider compliance payments made to the renewable energy fund shall first be used by the department of energy for administrative costs, including funding for the office of energy innovation, for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 per fiscal year. The bill also allocates for the current fiscal year an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for renewable energy initiatives, and provides that any remaining moneys be deposited in the general fund.

The question being adoption of floor amendment (1608h).

Rep. McGhee spoke in favor.

The floor amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment. Majority committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to third reading.

SB 448-FN, (New Title) modifying the definition of veteran. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Mike Belcher for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. As amended, this measure corrects an oversight in prior law that failed to properly recognize those veterans given “general” discharges under honorable circumstances. The new characterization involves both of the two varieties of discharges considered honorable. Earlier this year the House passed HB 1287 which addressed discharge status issues related to special number plates. This measure adds “general discharge under honorable conditions” status to the existing “honorable discharge” status in terms of eligibility for certain other benefits. The definitions in related law are thus adjusted to properly recognize both statuses and provide definition regarding benefits to another contingent of veterans who honorably served our nation and state. Vote 13-0.

Amendment (1444h)

Amend the bill by deleting section 1 and renumbering the original sections 2-9 to read as 1-8, respectively.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 5 with the following:

6 Honorable Discharge; References Amended. Amend the following RSAs by replacing “honorable discharge” or “an honorable discharge” with “discharge of a character outlined in RSA 21:50”: RSA 115-A:16; 115-A:29, I-II; 115-B:1, II(a); 115-B:1, II(c); 165:5; 175:1, XXII; 176:10; 261:86, I(d); 261:87-b, I; 275-G:1, II; 466:8, I; and 651-A:13.

7 Honorably Discharged; References Amended. Amend the following RSAs by replacing “honorably discharged” with “discharge of a character outlined in RSA 21:50”: RSA 72:28, IV(a); 72:28-b, IV; 72:35, I; 99-F:2, VI(a)(1)-(3); 100-A:4, VI(a)(2); 119:1, I; 119:2, II; 261:86, I(c)-(e); 261:141, VIII(c); 261:157-a; and 291:3.

8 Applicability. The change in terminology made under sections 6 and 7 of this act shall apply to municipal rules in effect on the effective date of this act without amendment or readoption by the municipality.

9 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Committee report was adopted and the bill was ordered to third reading.

SB 492-FN, authorizing the department of military affairs and veterans services to license and lease property in which the department holds a property interest. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Sanjeev Manohar for State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs. This bill authorizes the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services (DMAVS) to lease or license property under its jurisdiction and establishes a dedicated, non-lapsing fund for the management of such property. It clarifies that leased or licensed property is not exempt from taxation of local municipalities. Testimony before the committee highlighted the increasing cost of housing in areas surrounding military installations, such as our base at the former Pease Air Force Base and the resulting challenges for service members and their families, particularly enlisted personnel. In some cases, personnel are required to commute significant distances to access affordable housing, which can negatively impact readiness and quality of life. The committee found that this bill provides a practical and flexible tool for DMAVS to make better use of its existing property in a manner that may help address housing constraints and support military personnel. The ability to lease or license property offers a creative approach to addressing these challenges while maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability. The amendment changed the effective date from July 1, 2026, to “60 days after passage.” Vote 13-0.

Amendment (1443h)

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage. Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

The question being adoption of the committee amendment.

Committee amendment was adopted.

The question now being adoption of the majority committee report of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Committee report was adopted, and the Speaker referred the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means.

SB 559-FN, reducing the minimum allowable speed limit on locally controlled roads. MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Joseph Hamblen for the **Majority** of Transportation. Allowing municipalities to reduce local speed limits from 25 mph to 20 mph in the name of safety commendable, but does not fix the issues that cause the unsafe conditions. An engineering study is required to justify a change in speed limits. This study should identify any unsafe conditions and recommend a fix for those unsafe conditions. Passage of this bill would also allow municipalities to change speed limits on state owned roads in compact urban areas. This change could confuse drivers from other areas who are not accustomed to this type of change. Finally this lowering of a speed limit could force some school zones and work to be forced to be lowered to as low as 10 mph. Vote 11-4.

Rep. George Sykes for the **Minority** of Transportation. This bill is enabling legislation which would allow a minimum allowable speed limit of 20 mph. This bill is at it's most basic is a public safety measure. The most critical point remains that the survivability of pedestrians and the bicyclist's with this speed reduction the likelihood of death or serious injury drops to 5% vs 45% at 30 mph.

The question being adoption of the majority committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Rep. Thomas Walsh spoke in favor.

Rep. Miller spoke in against and requested a roll call; sufficiently seconded.

YEAS 218 - NAYS 110

YEAS - 218

BELKNAP

Aldrich, Glen
Freeman, Lisa

Bogert, Steven
Ploszaj, Tom

Coker, Matthew
Terry, Paul

Comtois, Barbara
Toner, Travis

CARROLL

Avellani, Lino
Hamblen, Joseph
Brown, Richard

Belcher, Mike
Smith, Jonathan
Taylor, Brian

Burroughs, Anita
McAleer, Chris

Crawford, Karel
Peternel, Katy

CHESHIRE

Murphy, Denis
Mattson, Rita
Qualey, James

Faulkner, Barry
Germana, Nicholas
Rhodes, Jennifer

Hunt, John
Nalevanko, Rich
Thackston, Dick

Karasinski, Sly
O'Rorke, Terri

COOS

Davis, Arnold
Ouellet, Mike

Durkin, Sean
Tierney, James

Korzen, Lori
Tremblay, Marc

Murphy, Michael

GRAFTON

Almy, Susan
Bjelobrck, Marie Louise
Ladd, Rick

Barton, Joseph
Bolton, Bill
Louis, Darrell

Beaulier, Calvin
Cormen, Thomas
McFarlane, Donald

Berezhny, Lex
Franz, Linda

HILLSBOROUGH

Ammon, Keith
Booras, Efstathia
Corcoran, Travis
Dargie, Paul
Erf, Keith
Georges, Mary
Kluger, Lee Ann
LeClerc, Daniel
Murphy, Mary
Mooney, Maureen
Ohm, Bill
Petrigno, Peter
Presa, Adam
Reinfurt, Sherri
Sheehan, Vanessa
Suiter, John
Veilleux, Daniel
Wilhelm, Matthew

Boyd, Bill
Chretien, Suzanne
Creighton, James
Drew, Matt
Flanagan, Jack
Giasson, Henry
Kofalt, Jim
Leishman, Peter
Mazur, Lisa
Morton, Jonathan
Paquette, Kathleen
Plamondon, Marc
Proulx, Mark
Rice, Kimberly
Sirois, Shane
Tenczar, Jeffrey
Warden, Mark

Barbour, Liz
Colcombe, Riche
Kelley, Diane
Dumont, Dillon
Griffin, Gerald
Herbert, Christopher
Labrie, Brian
Murray, Megan
McLean, Mark
Noble, Kristin
Pauer, Diane
Post, Lisa
Prout, Andrew
Newman, Sue
Slottje, Jeremy
Mannion, Tom
Wheeler, Jonah

Berry, Ross
Cole, Brian
Daniels, Gary
Dupont, Pierre
Gagne, Larry
Kesselring, Steven
Lascelles, Richard
Manohar, Sanjeev
Miles, Julie
Notter, Jeanine
Peeples, Raymond
Preece, David
Newman, Ray
Schneller, John
Spier, Carry
Vail, Suzanne
Wherry, Robert

MERRIMACK

Andrus, Louise
Devoid, Ricky
Hicks, Matthew
Moffett, Michael
Richards, Beth
Walsh, Thomas

Aures, Cyril
Kelly, Eileen
Hill, Gregory
Payeur, Stephanie
Boyd, Stephen
Thibault, James

McGuire, Carol
Ebel, Karen
Leavitt, John
Pitaro, Matthew
Seaworth, Brian
Wood, Clayton

McGuire, Dan
Gibbs, Merryl
Mehegan, Peter
Polozov, Yury
See, Alvin
Woods, Gary

ROCKINGHAM

Balboni, Peggy
Bryer, Scott
Drago, Mike
Grote, Jaci
Janigian, John
Layon, Erica
Manos, Zoe

Ball, Lorie
Mannion, Dennis
Dunn, Ron
Guzofski, James
Katsakiores, Phyllis
Litchfield, Melissa
Markell, Jay

Bennett, Cindy
Thomas, Douglas
Edwards, Jess
Harb, Robert
Khan, Aboul
Lundgren, David
McDonnell, Valerie

Bernardy, JD
DeSimone, Debra
Ford, Mary
Haskins, Linda
Walsh, Lilli
Lynn, Bob
McGrath, Linda

McMahon, Charles
Nadeau, Brian
Porcelli, Susan
Read, Ellen
Soti, Julius
Tripp, Richard
Vandecasteele, Susan
Weyler, Kenneth

Melvin, Charles
Osborne, Jason
Potucek, John
Pearson, Stephen
Spillane, James
Tudor, Paul
Verville, Kevin
Wilson, Vicki

Meuse, David
Brown, Pam
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine
Sabourin dit Choinière, Matt
Summers, James
Turer, Eric
Vose, Michael

Milz, David
Popovici-Muller, Daniel
Raynolds, Ned
Selby, Donald
Dolan, Tom
Vallone, Mark
MacDonald, Wayne

Bailey, Glenn
Farrington, Samuel
Larochele, John

Burnham, Claudine
Granger, Michael
Potenza, Kelley

DeLemus, Susan
Harrington, Michael
Walker, David

DeRoy, Susan
Kaczynski, Thomas

Sullivan, Brian
Hemingway, Wayne
Spilsbury, Walter

Drye, Margaret
Aron, Judy

Girard, Dale
Aron, Michael

Grant, George
Rollins, Skip

STRAFFORD

SULLIVAN

NAYS - 110

BELKNAP

Nagel, David

CARROLL

Boudman, Bobbi

Paige, David

MacDonald, John

Woodcock, Stephen

CHESHIRE

Ames, Dick
Gruber, James
Parshall, Lucius

Berch, Paul
Jacobs, Samantha
Weber, Lucy

Harvey, Cathryn
Jones, Philip

Fox, Dru
Newell, Jodi

COOS

King, Seth

GRAFTON

Baldwin, Heather
Sullivan, Jared
Rockmore, Ellen

Fellows, Sallie
Lovett, Peter
Spahr, Terry

Fracht, David
Lucas, Janet
Stringham, Jerry

Hakken-Phillips, Mary
Oppel, Thomas
Sykes, George

HILLSBOROUGH

Murray, Aissandra
Cornell, Patricia
Gould, Linda
Jack, Martin
Foxx, Loren
Howard, Molly
Raymond, Heather
Salvi, Santosh
Tellez, Trinidad

Beauchemin, Paige
Darby, Will
Gregg, Alicia
Jeudy, Jean
Leapley, Nicole
MacKenzie, Mark
Rombeau, Catherine
Seibert, Christine
Dolan, William

Bergeron, Dan
Elberger, Susan
Grill, Jessica
Juris, Louis
Lloyd, Christal
McGhee, Kat
Rung, Rosemarie
Staub, Kathy
Thomas, Wendy

Chourasia, Manoj
Foss, Lily
Hartnett, Tim
Kerwin, Erin
Long, Patrick
Murphy, Nancy
Ryan, Linda
Swanson, Dale

MERRIMACK

Bricchi, Tracy
Luneau, David
Schamberg, Thomas

Colby, Eleana
Hall, Muriel
Snodgrass, Jim

Gallager, Eric
Newsom, James
Wallner, Mary Jane

Lane, Connie
Roesener, James

ROCKINGHAM

Bridle, Nicholas
Gilman, Julie
Muns, Chris
Sytek, John

Cahill, Michael
Knab, Allison
Scherr, Buzz
Ward, Gerald

de Vries, Erica
Paige, Mark
Simpson, Alexis
Weinstein, Toni

Edgar, Michael
Maggiore, Jim
Sorensen, Carrie

STRAFFORD

Bay, Luz
Smith, Geoffrey
Johnson, Erik
Miller, Seth
Wade, Alice

Bixby, Peter
Gilmore, Gary
LaMontagne, Jessica
Schmidt, Peter
Wall, Janet

Burton, Wayne
Howard, Heath
Levesque, Cassandra
Selig, Loren

Butler, Billie
Horrigan, Timothy
Smith, Marjorie
Stone, John

SULLIVAN

Cloutier, John

Damon, Hope

Palmer, William

and the majority committee report was adopted.

RESOLUTION

Rep. Osborne offered the following: RESOLVED, that the House now adjourn from the early session, that the business of the late session be in order at the present time, that the reading of bills be by title only and resolutions by caption only and that all bills ordered to third reading be read a third time by this resolution, and that all titles of bills be the same as adopted, and that they be passed at the present time, and when the House adjourns today it be to meet, at the call of the Chair.
Motion was adopted.

LATE SESSION**Third Reading and Final Passage**

SB 456, establishing the commission for children's futures.
SB 515-FN, relative to judicial determinations related to children placed in a qualified residential treatment program in certain juvenile matters and appointment of counsel in certain circumstances.
SB 548-FN, relative to health carrier provider contract standards.
SB 622-FN, relative to the offense of identity fraud.
SB 400, relative to duties and reporting requirements of the therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board.
SB 502-FN, removing references to the department of business and economic affairs and the office of planning and development, and makes various changes to how certain committees and commissions participate or operate.
SB 530-FN, relative to fetal death reporting to the Centers for Disease Control.
SB 619-FN, establishing procedures for expedited court hearings and disposition of confiscated animals.
SB 529-FN, giving preference to lumber sourced in the United States on all state-funded building projects.
SB 595, relative to rulemaking for transient non-community water systems.
SB 560, modernizing the New Hampshire coordinate system.
SB 472, removing the maximum age on the tenure of office for the position of deputy adjutant general.
SB 473, defining the term "field officers" within the national guard.
SB 633-FN, relative to donations received by the granite patron of the arts fund.
SB 460-FN, prohibiting tier III criminal offenders from being present in designated child safety zones absent a legitimate purpose.
SB 593-FN, relative to landfills.
SB 564, prohibiting certain municipal development restrictions.
SB 464-FN, relative to civil rights enforcement.
SB 494-FN, relative to the state fire code, fire incident reporting and investigations, and the duties of the state fire marshal.
SB 586-FN, requiring chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and requiring the results of such audits to be made available to the public.
SB 429-FN-A, relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor and relative to the parental bill of rights concerning the creation of student media recordings.
SB 540-FN, relative to plug-in solar generation systems.
SB 549-FN, requiring certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creating reporting requirements for such entities.
SB 594-FN, eliminating the use of agitators in instances where temporary docks have been removed from bodies of water.
SB 589-FN, relative to port electrification, microgrid development, and cybersecurity standards for energy and water systems.
SB 591-FN, allowing utility companies to own or build generation facilities.
SB 512-FN, relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction.
SB 590-FN, relative to electric aggregation plans.
SB 610-FN, allowing the insurance commissioner to approve innovative short or long-term care policies.
SB 505-FN, relative to applications for guide licenses and repealing the fee for temporary registration of nonresidents relative to OHRVs.
SB 599-FN, relative to the renewable energy fund.
SB 448-FN, modifying the definition of veteran.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Rep. Read requested Personal Privilege and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Wheeler moved that the remarks made by Rep. Read during Personal Privilege be printed in the Permanent Journal.
Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Rep. Read: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. My character has been publicly impugned by a disciplinary letter from the Speaker that makes me the first ever Representative to be barred from this chamber on non-session days, by a resulting press account that bears little resemblance to what occurred, and by a sustained effort to characterize principled advocacy as instability. I rise today to correct the record. In order to do that, I must give the true accounting of events. The bill at the center of this is HB 1633, the language of which has passed this floor with near unanimity three times. It simply requires that victims of sexual assault be informed of their rights under New Hampshire law. It created no new rights. It created no new crimes. This body most recently passed it on a roll call vote of 340 to 1. At the recent Senate Judiciary hearing on the bill, supporters of the bill, including four sexual assault survivors, were limited to three minutes, but the opponents received twenty minutes and were called back for a second turn. Further, the Chair spent a considerable portion clearly confused about what the bill even did, an effect of, as he confirmed personally to me later, heavy lobbying by one organization beforehand. I was not in the room. I was in the public hallway outside of it, where I am not subject to House rules nor Senate rules and where I broke no rules, which is why in fact, I have not been accused of breaking any rules. I want you to try to imagine what it is like being a sexual assault survivor, having worked for three years for just the most basic rights, in a hallway, watching yet again another institution meant to help survivors, fail them. No, I was not quiet about that failure, I said one word, everyone's favorite cuss word, into the air, by myself, directed at no one. No law enforcement or protective services spoke to me, and no at no point was I escorted to or from anywhere. But for speaking my frustration to the ceiling, I received the first access ban in the recorded history of this body, citing not a decorum rule, but a criminal statute, a criminal statute that a Speaker has no authority to enforce, imposed without hearing, without findings and without due process. I would invite this body to consider that discipline, next to the record. Just 5 years ago, a sitting Speaker of this House, presiding over this body, referred to a sitting member as a misogynistic slur, on a live microphone. It disrupted public proceedings, but there was no ban, no committee removal, no invocation of a criminal statute. A sitting member this year made an obscene gesture to the sitting governor from the floor during session, and another member of this body publicly called for a "final solution" on another member; a reference by any honest reading, to a Nazi program of extermination. But no one has been banned, no one else. That last member is moving through a process that affords him notice, hearing, and the opportunity to respond. I am not asking that those members be treated more harshly than they are. I am asking this body to notice that I was not afforded anything resembling what they were afforded, for conduct that does not remotely compare, and that none of them have been punished the way I have. So I would ask honestly, what is actually being punished here? Because it is not language. Let's drop the facade; a high-conflict, high stress environment with 400 adults with larger than average egos. We use colorful language. This building has a high tolerance for language when the Speaker is the right kind of person saying the right kind of thing in the right kind of direction. What is being punished is caring too loudly, in the wrong hallway, about the wrong bill, on behalf of the wrong people in opposition to the wrong group. That is not a matter of decorum. That is bad faith, and bad faith is the operating principle of too much of what happens in this building. We forget that we pass policy that impacts the real lives of 1.4 million people. We pretend bills are just pieces on a board to be moved for reputation, for clout, for leverage, for the preservation of relationships with lobbyists who prefer that survivors not know their rights. We pass or defeat bills on the basis of whose name is on it, or what makes the other team look bad, or what pleases our leadership; with what is in the best interest of the people often just an afterthought. I am not telling any of you what you don't already know. When we treat the people of this state like pawns, and we do, every day, the people we serve know. They know, and that is why they have stopped trusting us. The emperor wears no clothes, and the only thing more embarrassing than his nakedness is the number of us who have agreed to keep admiring the tailoring. I have been called erratic. I am not erratic. I am consistent. For ten years in this body and for every year before it. My constituents know exactly who they elected. They elected me five times. They elected the woman who raises her voice when survivors are being procedurally silenced, because that is the woman they sent here to raise it. The problem is not that I am uncouth, it is that I am principled, and power hates principles because the principled cannot be controlled. I cannot be bought, I cannot be manipulated and I cannot be intimidated. That is not a personal virtue. That is the job description my district wrote for me, and I intend to honor it for as long as they allow me to hold this seat. And that is their job description for me because they know that decorum is well and fine, but decorum alone is meaningless. It is not enough to curtsy to each other while we burn down the principles of good governance every day. They know that the ways in which we govern are often obscene, and that sometimes the only language that can describe that is obscenities. The thousand survivors a year in New Hampshire who leave hospitals without ever being told they had a right to evidence do not have the luxury of performing civility while their claims are procedurally strangled. Neither, therefore, do I. May we all learn to, like our constituents, take far more offense with bad faith governance than with colorful language. Whatever comes next, I will be here doing the work my constituents elected me to do. That decision is theirs alone and belongs to no one in this room. The only question is what this body chooses to stand for because I am not going anywhere.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Wade requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding Artemis II and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Foss moved that the remarks made by Rep. Wade during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Rep. Wade: Thank you, Mister Speaker. Twenty-two days ago, the Artemis II mission launched the first manned space flight to the moon since 1972. There were many historic firsts that were accomplished over the course of the following nine days. On board the SLS rocket was Victor Glover, the first person of color, Christina Koch, the first woman, Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen, the first non-U.S. citizen, and Commander Reid Wiseman, the oldest person to travel below low Earth orbit and around the moon. On April 6th, the astronauts on board broke the record for the furthest away humans have ever been from Earth, 252,756 miles from home. The Artemis program has been almost a decade in the making, building on the vast history of NASA missions that preceded it, and I have the honor to share that New Hampshire played an important part in ensuring that the astronauts returned safely home. In fact, all 50 states contributed towards the Artemis program through manufacturing, consulting, university research, and small businesses, including the small business that I work at. I don't get the chance to talk about this much, but when I'm not at the State House, I work at a small aerospace manufacturing company in Dover, New Hampshire that works on high temperature textiles for aircraft and spacecraft. For the Artemis II mission, we actually manufactured the seals that go around the windows in the Orion capsule. So, if you saw some of the photos that the astronauts took of Earth or of the moon, if you see the seal around that window, that came from Dover. So those seals are basically what prevents the high temperature plasma during reentry and the coldness of space from getting into the space capsule and thankfully not frying the astronauts, which is much appreciated, I'm sure. So thankfully those seals worked, and on April 11th, the astronauts began reentry. For about 14 minutes, the Orion capsule was surrounded by plasma, and for a period of time, there was a blackout where no communications could get through to the crew. I remember I was watching live with my fiancé and cheered quite a bit when the first voice message finally came through after the blackout. I don't think I'll ever really lose the feeling of watching a rocket launch live or especially a landing. The long-term goal of the Artemis missions is to establish a permanent human settlement on the moon to better understand the origins of our universe and to prepare for future human missions to Mars. Something that often gets overlooked is how much space exploration plays a direct part in improving our everyday lives in ways that we rarely appreciate. GPS, satellite internet, improvements in prosthetic limbs, farming, weather forecasting, cochlear implants, freeze-drying memory foam, which I greatly appreciate, advanced solar cells, and so many other inventions were initially created under NASA. And then, their uses were later expanded into commercial purposes and are used by billions of people around the globe every single day. And speaking of NASA-developed solar cells, I'd also like to take a moment to recognize Carol McGuire. I'm not sure if she's still in the room, but I was very interested to find out that she previously worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and personally installed the solar panels that are actually still in use on the ISS today. Artemis 2 is just the beginning of the next generation of human spaceflight. Artemis 3 is targeted to launch in mid-2027 with the goal of landing on the moon for the first time in over 50 years. And just as the Apollo missions inspired a generation of engineers and scientists, so too will the Artemis program. Seeing the international unity around humanity returning to the moon and the number of people uplifted by one of our greatest collaborative achievements makes me hopeful for the future of space exploration with New Hampshire along for the journey. From Alan Shepard to Christa McAuliffe and many more to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Swanson requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding military service and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Weber moved that the remarks made by Rep. Swanson during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Rep. Swanson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In January of 1970, my oldest brother kissed his pregnant wife goodbye and left for Vietnam. Us three oldest boys in the family had a bug for aviation and Steve flew Huey and Cobra helicopters. Fortunately, he did return safe and sound to his wife and his young son in December of that year. Unfortunately, of the 27 chopper pilots who deployed with Steve to Vietnam, nine did not come back alive. I turned 13. I turned 13 the year that Steve served his tour in Vietnam. Progress on the war was reported almost daily

during those years, though it was a bit of a blur to me as I engaged in all sorts of heady pursuits of just growing up. I do remember a new statistic that began getting reported in the network news during that time; the daily body count. In all of history of war that I'd ever read or knew of, none had ever measured progress by body count. I remember wondering what number of bodies would qualify as a victory. I took my turn in military aviation 11 years later. I was qualified in the right seat of the F-111 and assigned to RAF Lakenheath in support of NATO. Our nation's strategic deterrence in that period led to removal of the Berlin Wall and ultimately the dissolution of the Soviet Union. My initial European tour lasted six years, but despite a number of military operations over those years, actual deployment to a combat theater did not occur until ten years later. In 1990, I kissed my pregnant wife goodbye and left home for Saudi Arabia. I was assigned to an elite group of electronic warfare officers planning Desert Storm and Desert Shield missions for the stealth fighter. Our base was too far from Iraq to be at risk from the north, but the threat assessment was high due to the number of Houthi rebels not far to the south. So I wore a 9-millimeter Beretta at my side during nearly all of my working hours and kept it under my bed when I slept. Despite an unexpected extension in theater after the allied invasion ended, I eventually returned stateside safely, as did all of the comrades who deployed with me. Through the decades of my life, I have observed or participated in a number of American military operations. Outcomes have varied from short successful engagements with well-defined and easily achievable objectives, and long drawn out conflicts with goals that were sometimes murky. Through those decades, American military superiority in the world has never been questioned. Our armed forces have always performed any duty or assignment with near perfection. And through those decades, I have also been lectured again and again about the need for a strong military. As if that alone was sufficient to keep America the greatest nation on earth. Yet our technology and our strength did not prevent the fall of South Vietnam in 1975. Neither could it keep the Taliban from regaining power in Afghanistan in 2021 after 20 years of American involvement. The fortunes of war are fickle. Even the greatest leaders can fall victim to cultural pressures, hubris, greed, bad luck, or just bad judgment. It is easy for them to overemphasize military superiority while underestimating an enemy's strategic advantage and, most importantly, a defending nation's sheer will. Altogether, these things can undermine America's extraordinary power. The hardest part is having the wisdom to recognize that mistake and avoiding the temptation to merely apply more force. Worse yet, recovering from such mistakes can be hampered by pride, duplicity, and deceit. I ask you, always remember, emphasize the importance of military power, but never forget the importance of wise leadership. Regardless of our nation's military prowess, we must choose leaders carefully and hold them to account even after they are elected. We all benefit when they succeed, but we will all pay if they do not. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Rep. Heath Howard requested Unanimous Consent of the House regarding autism awareness month and addressed the House.

MOTION TO PRINT REMARKS

Rep. Wilhelm moved that the remarks made by Rep. Heath Howard during Unanimous Consent be printed in the Permanent Journal.

Without objection, the Speaker ordered.

REMARKS

Rep. Heath Howard: Thank you, Mister Speaker. April is Autistic People's Awareness Month, not Autism Awareness Month. We don't need you to be aware of us. That's why I'm asking all of you neurotypical people in the chamber today to come buy an autistic person a beer at Tandy's after this. Just kidding. But I'm going to tell you about my autism because if you've seen me buried in my Mason's manual before, you can probably guess that I'm very passionate about the rules. I'm passionate about things being fair. That is the type of autism that I have. But my passion for fairness in our society is branded as immaturity. I cannot just let it go when things are not fair. Life's not fair, get used to it. People always tell me that. I don't think we have to accept that. That's why I'm in this room, to change that. When I was little, I was sent to the principal's office all the time, more than I'd like to admit. Not for bullying, not for cheating, but for getting frustrated about the rules when they were changed in the middle of a game or whatnot. My autism revolves around ensuring the rules are maintained and things are fair. Now when I make a stink about the rules being broken, it's you're so immature. Maybe I am immature. But if my immaturity is rooted in creating an equitable society, then that's probably necessary right now. We don't need a cure for autism. We don't need treatment. We don't need to be told to mask. We don't need people to just accept us, but to actually take a step back when we react a certain way or say a certain thing and try to understand where we are coming from. We are so tired of having to explain ourselves, the tone we use, how we react, our actions. We are tired of having our words twisted. Awareness is not just about recognizing autistic traits. It is about allowing them to exist in real life. We should not have to change who we are to make others comfortable. We are people who deserve the same level of respect as everyone else. We have jobs. We pay taxes. We play baseball. And we never stop working towards a world that isn't just aware of us, but one that is willing to accept us. Thank you.

RECESS MOTION

Rep. Osborne moved that the House stand in recess for the purposes of the introduction of bills, enrolled bill amendments, enrolled bill reports, vacate motions, receiving messages and forming of Committees of Conference. Motion was adopted.

The House recessed at 4:16 p.m.

RECESS

(Representative Steven Smith in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered 1037, 1159 and 1270 and Senate Bills numbered 401, 411, 412, 427 and 522.

Rep. Osborne, Sen. Avard for the Committee

HB 649-FN, relative to the maintenance obligations of motor vehicle operators.

Amendment 2026-1656EBA

Amend RSA 358-F:4 as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing line 3 with the following: during the ~~[inspection requested]~~ **examination conducted** under RSA 358-F:2 is an unfair or Motion was adopted.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILLS REPORT

The Committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly enrolled House Bills numbered 109, 222, 481, 610, 1030, 1044, 1168, 1205, 1310 and Senate Bills numbered 402, 413, 426, 428, 443, 469, 489, 526 and 527.

Rep. Steven Smith, Sen. Avard for the Committee

SENATE MESSAGE**ACCEDES TO REQUESTS FOR COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE**

HB 221, enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources, and relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities and limitations on community customer generators. The President appointed Sens. Carson, Pearl and Waters.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

SENATE MESSAGE**REQUESTS CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS**

HB 221, enabling electric utilities to own, operate, and offer advanced nuclear resources, and relative to purchased power agreements for electric distribution utilities and limitations on community customer generators. (Amendment printed SJ 1/7/26)

Rep. Vose moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Vose, Douglas Thomas, Bernardy and Notter.

RECESS

(Rep. Steven Smith in the Chair)

ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENT

SB 503, relative to the use of spruce-pine-fir lumber. (Amendment printed SJ 4/30/26)

Motion was adopted.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

SENATE MESSAGES**REQUESTS CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS**

HB 639-FN, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies. (Amendment printed SJ 3/12/26)

Rep. Hunt moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Hunt, Ammon, Dan McGuire and Spier.

HB 191-FN, providing criminal penalties for the transporting of an unemancipated minor in order to obtain a surgical procedure or a termination of the minor's pregnancy without parental permission. (Amendment printed SJ 1/7/26)

Rep. Roy moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Roy, Rhodes, Alissandra Murray and Paquette.

HB 510-FN, establishing a commission to study due process in higher education disciplinary proceedings. (Amendment printed SJ 3/5/26)

Rep. Ladd moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Ladd, Lynn, Popovici-Muller and Erf.

HB 1099, establishing a committee to study the cost and liability of providing educational services to students placed in residential facilities. (Amendment printed SJ 4/16/26)

Rep. Ladd moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Ladd, Erf, Colcombe and Ames.

HB 158, requiring the secretary of state to review absentee ballot data biennially, forward certain requests to the election law unit for review, and make a report to the general court. (Amendment printed SJ 3/26/26)

Rep. Berry moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Berry, Qualey, Burnham and Wood.

HB 281, requiring electronic voter checklists to be supplied in a sortable format. (Amendment printed SJ 3/12/26)

Rep. Berry moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Berry, Wherry, Lane and See.

HB 317, preventing a supervisor of the checklist from verifying a person's identity without identification, even if they personally know that person. (Amendment printed SJ 3/12/26)

Rep. Berry moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Berry, Qualey, Wherry and Burnham.

HB 340-FN, relative to electioneering by public employees. (Amendment printed SJ 1/7/26)

Rep. Berry moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Aldrich, Berry, Qualey, Wood and See.

HB 244, updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code. (Amendment printed SJ 3/12/26)

Rep. Layon moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Layon, Slottje, Grote and DeRoy.

HB 1130-FN, establishing a committee to study the procedure for judicial performance evaluations. (Amendment printed SJ 4/23/26)

Rep. Lynn moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Lynn, Dennis Mannion, Alexander and Korzen.

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)
ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENTS

HB 59-FN, relative to the assault of a firefighter, emergency medical care provider, or law enforcement officer.

Amendment 2026-1557EBA

Amend the bill by inserting after section 3 the following and renumbering the original section 4 to read as 6, respectively:

4 First Degree Assault; Elements. Amend RSA 631:1, I(d) to read as follows:

(d) Knowingly or recklessly causes serious bodily injury to a person under 13 years of age[-]; **or**

5 Second Degree Assault; Elements. Amend RSA 631:2, I(f) to read as follows:

(f) Purposely or knowingly engages in the strangulation of another[-]; **or**

Motion was adopted.

HB 126, relative to prescriptions for certain controlled drugs.

Amendment 2026-1674EBA

Amend RSA 318-B:9, IV(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing line 1 with the following:

(a) Schedule II or III controlled drugs that are commercially packaged for dispensing

Motion was adopted.

HB 348, relative to eligibility for local assistance.

Amendment 2026-1673EBA

Amend RSA 165:2-a, II(a) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing line 2 with the following:

reimbursement for the costs of relieving and maintaining the applicant;

Motion was adopted.

RECESS**SENATE MESSAGES****REQUESTS CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS**

HB 1381, extending the time of the party filing period. (Amendment printed SJ 4/16/26)

Rep. Berry moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Berry, Qualey, Lane and Wilhelm.

HB 1306, relative to the counting of absentee ballots. (Amendment printed SJ 4/23/26)

Rep. Berry moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Berry, Qualey, Burnham and Lane.

HB 1541-FN, requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots. (Amendment printed SJ 4/9/26)

Rep. Berry moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Berry, Qualey, Lane and Muirhead.

HB 1685, establishing a committee to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire. (Amendment printed SJ 4/16/26)

Rep. Vose moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Douglas Thomas, Caplan, Parshall and Vose.

RECESS**(Speaker Packard in the Chair)****SENATE MESSAGES****REQUESTS CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS**

HB 1215, relative to supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with a communication disability. (Amendment printed SJ 4/16/26)

Rep. DeSimone moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Aldrich, DeSimone, Wayne MacDonald, Korzen and Rice.

HB 1260-FN, relative to marriage registration forms and delayed certificates of marriage and relative to the confidentiality of divorce records. (Amendment printed SJ 4/9/26)

Rep. Lynn moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Lynn, Berch, Kuttub and Manos.

RECESS**(Speaker Packard in the Chair)****SENATE MESSAGE****REQUESTS CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS**

HB 1091, relative to unauthorized camping on private property. (Amendment printed SJ 4/23/26)

Rep. Roy moved that the House nonconcur and request a Committee of Conference.

Motion was adopted.

The Speaker appointed Reps. Roy, Proulx, Alissandra Murray and Paquette.

RECESS

(Speaker Packard in the Chair)

SENATE MESSAGES

ACCEDES TO REQUESTS FOR COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

HB 1099, establishing a committee to study the cost and liability of providing educational services to students placed in residential facilities.

The President appointed Sens. Ward, Abbas and Altschiller.

HB 639-FN, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies.

The President appointed Sens. Gray, Innis and Fenton.

CONCURRENCE WITH AMENDMENTS

SB 448-FN, modifying the definition of veteran.

SB 464-FN, relative to civil rights enforcement.

SB 505-FN, relative to applications for guide licenses and repealing the fee for temporary registration of nonresidents relative to OHRVs.

SB 540-FN, relative to plug-in solar generation systems.

SB 548-FN, relative to health carrier provider contract standards.

SB 586-FN, requiring chartered public schools, school administrative units, and cities or school districts not audited under RSA 671:5 to be audited by an independent public accountant after the end of the fiscal year and requiring the results of such audits to be made available to the public.

SB 589-FN, relative to port electrification, microgrid development, and cybersecurity standards for energy and water systems.

SB 593-FN, enabling the use of solid waste management funds by solid waste management districts.

SB 595, relative to rulemaking for transient non-community water systems.

SB 610-FN, allowing the insurance commissioner to approve innovative short or long-term care policies.

SB 619-FN, establishing procedures for expedited court hearings and disposition of confiscated animals.

SB 633-FN, relative to donations received by the granite patron of the arts fund.

RECESS